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THUNDERBOLTS®
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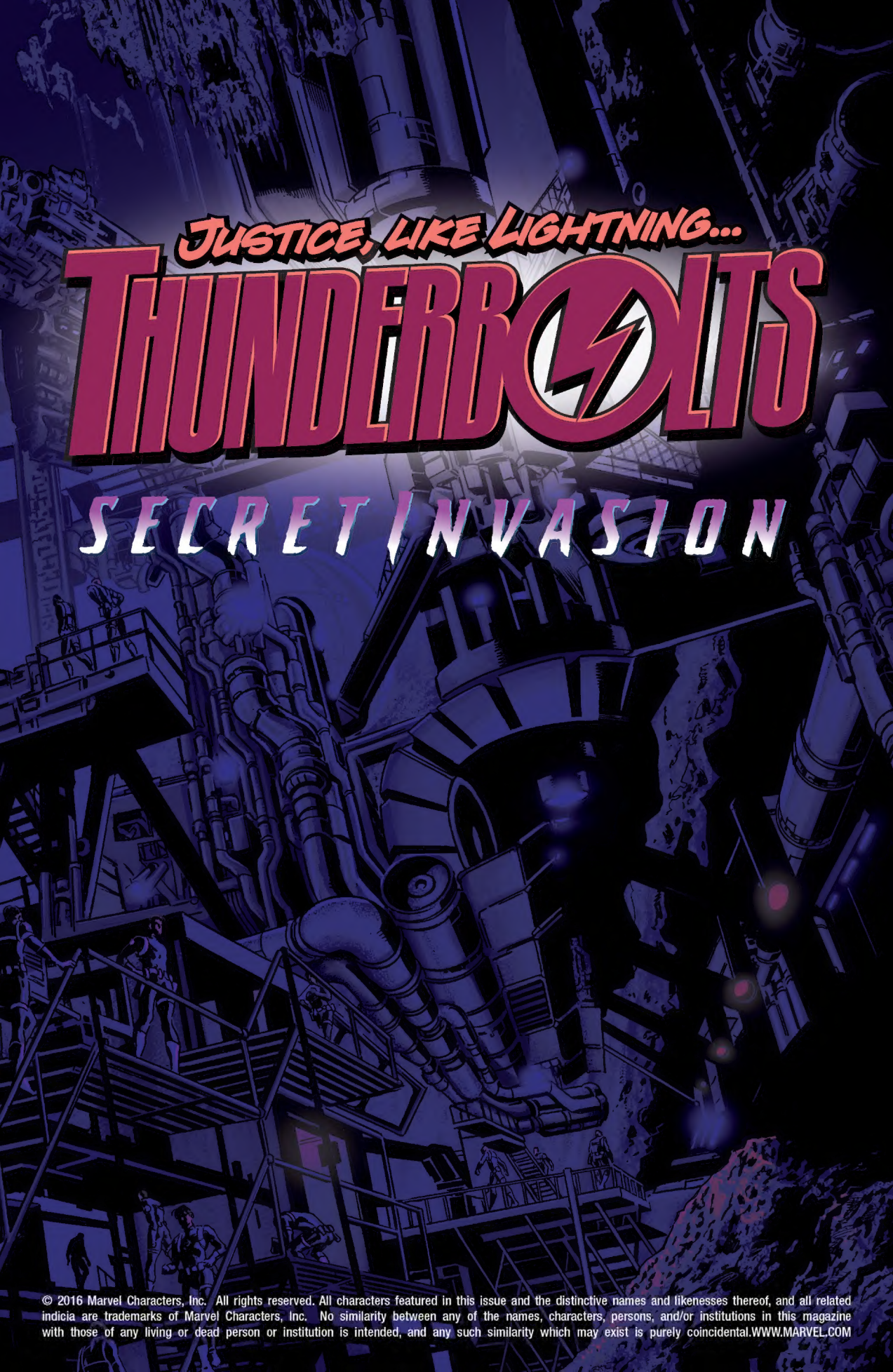

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WRITER: Cristos N. Gage

BREAKING POINT
ARTIST: Brian Denham
COLOR ART: Guru eFX
LETTERS: RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne
COVER ART: Marko Djurdjevic
EDITOR: Molly Lazer

INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT & REASON IN MADNESS
ARTIST: Ben Oliver
COLOR ART: Jose Villarrubia
LETTERS: RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne
COVER ART: Marko Djurdjevic
EDITOR: Molly Lazer

THUNDERBOLTS #122-125
ARTIST: Fernando Blanco
COLOR ART: Frank Martin
LETTERS: RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne
COVER ART: Billy Tan with Raul Treviño
ASSISTANT EDITORS: Lauren Sankovitch & Lauren Henry
EDITORS: Molly Lazer & Bill Rosemann

PREVIOUSLY

Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts — federal marshalls, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

When civil war split the superhuman community down the middle, the government recruited super-villains to hunt down unregistered super heroes acting in violation of the law. A new Thunderbolts team, now led by Norman Osborn, was assembled and cast into the public spotlight. Of the "old" team, only former leader Songbird, Radioactive Man, Swordsman and new field leader Moonstone remain, joined by new and more violent recruits like Penance and Venom.

COLLECTION EDITOR: Jennifer Grünwald
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Alex Starbuck
ASSISTANT EDITORS: Cory Levine & John Denning
EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS: Mark D. Beazley
SENIOR EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS: Jeff Youngquist
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES: David Gabriel

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION: Tim Smith 3
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EDITOR IN CHIEF: Joe Quesada
PUBLISHER: Dan Buckley

THUNDERBOLTS
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THUNDERBOLTS

BREAKING POINT

When civil war split the superhuman community down the middle, the government recruited super-villains to hunt down unregistered super heroes acting in violation of the law. A new Thunderbolts team was assembled and cast into the public spotlight. Of the "old" team, only former leader Songbird, Radioactive Man, Swordsman and new field leader Moonstone remain, joined by new and more violent recruits like Penance and Venom.

After seeing that public sympathy lies with Songbird, Moonstone let Swordsman in on her secret plan to kill Melissa Gold in the field, a plan that, while not yet acted upon, is still fresh in Moonstone's mind...

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BRING IT ON, YOU FASCIST PIGS!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH...
...YOU CAN'T FIGHT BROTHER NATURE!
WILL SOMEONE PLEASE SHUT THIS HIPPIE UP BEFORE I VOMIT?

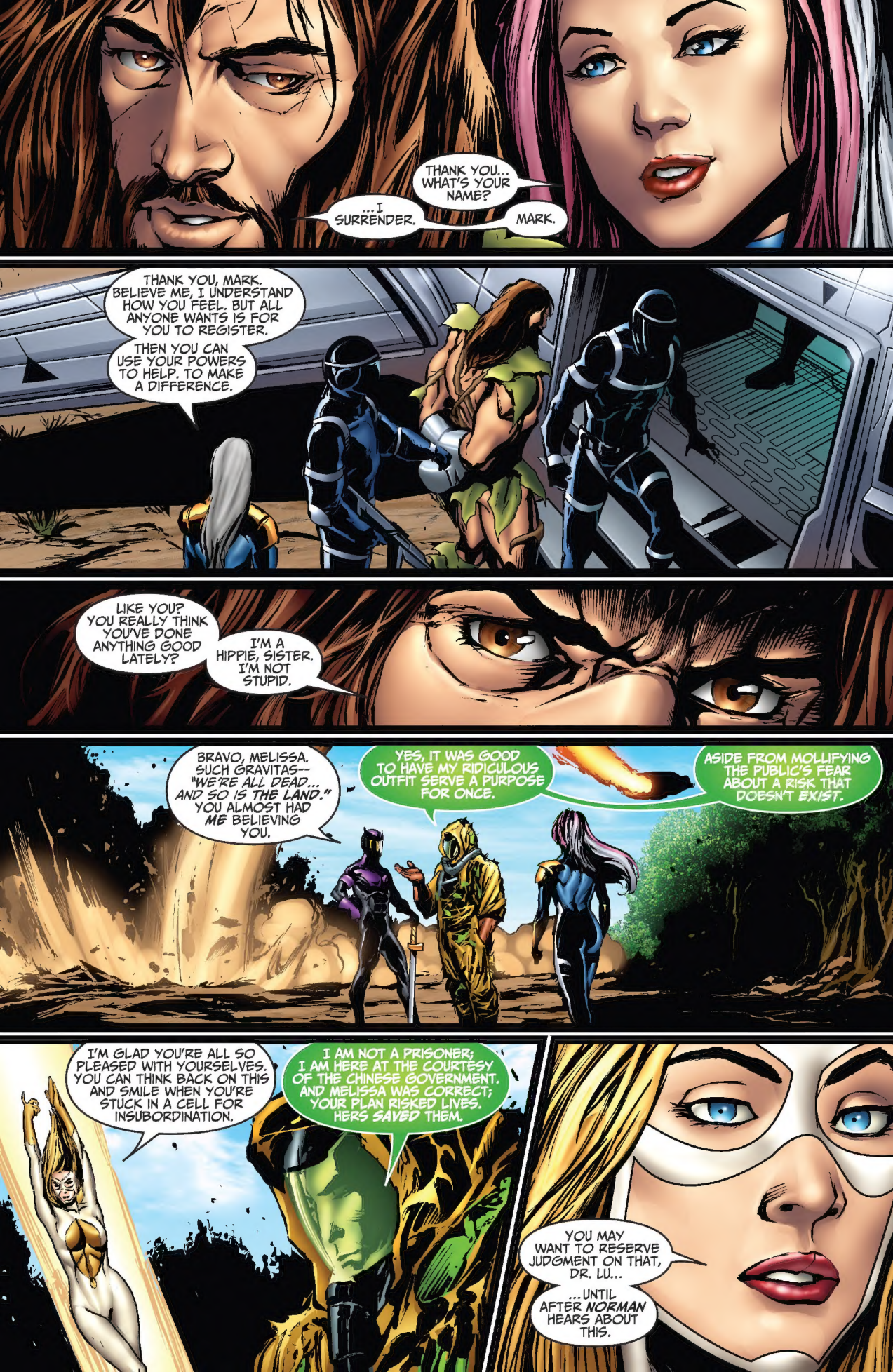
BREAKING POINT

Christos N. Gage - Writer
Brian Denham - Artist

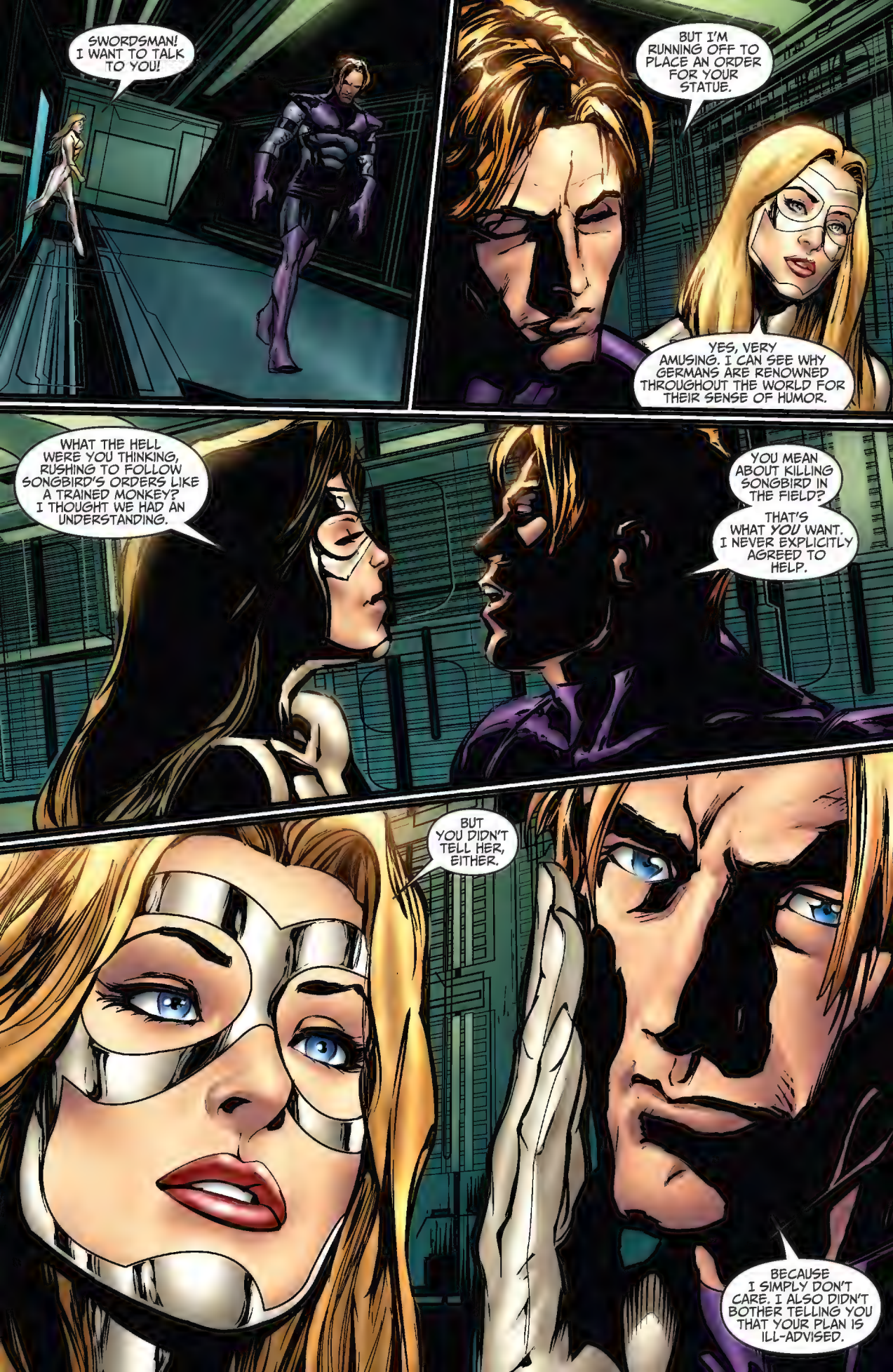
Guru eFX - Colors • RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne - Letterer • Marko Djurdjevic - Cover Art
Molly Lazer - Editor • Joe Quesada - Editor In Chief • Dan Buckley - Publisher

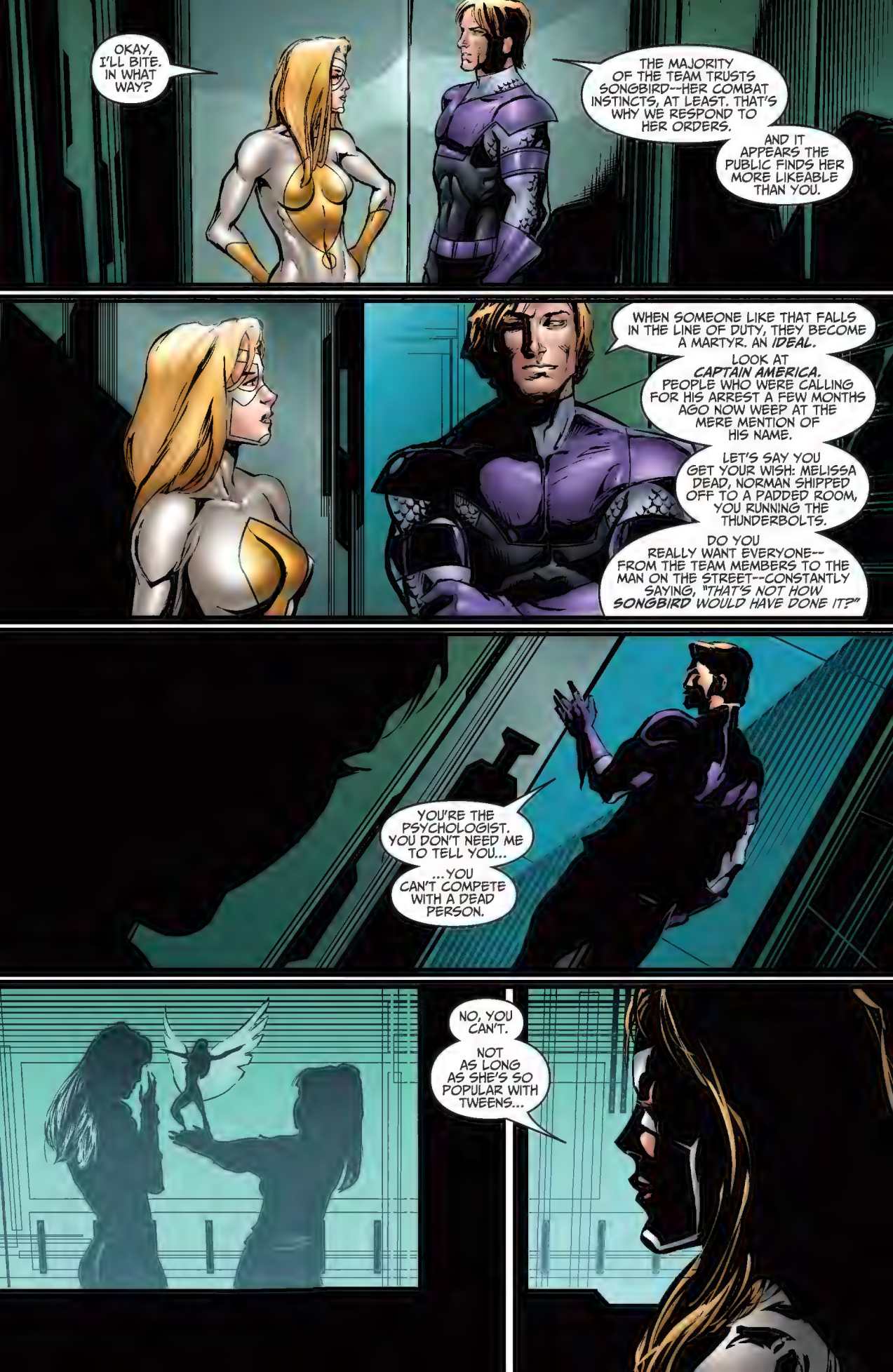
HARGH!
MOONSTONE! YOU'RE INTANGIBLE, CAN'T YOU GET THROUGH TO HIM?
I HAVE TO RETAIN SOME MASS TO KEEP MY BODY TOGETHER, SWORDSMAN. IT'S JUST ENOUGH FOR THE WIND HE'S GENERATING TO HOLD ME BACK.
WELL, A FRONTAL ASSAULT ISN'T WORKING. WE NEED TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE!
ATTACK HIM FROM ALL SIDES, ALL AT ONCE. WHILE YOU'RE DISTRACTING HIM, I'LL SLIP UNDERGROUND AND COME AT HIM FROM BELOW.
WAIT A SECOND! SOMEONE'S LIABLE TO GET KILLED THAT WAY. NOT YOU, OF COURSE...
YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA, SONGBIRD?
VENOM WAS RIGHT; THIS GUY'S POWERFUL, BUT HE'S BASICALLY A TREE-HUGGER. I'LL TELL YOU MY PLAN IN DIRECTED SOUND BEAMS HE CAN'T HEAR...
I'M SORRY, HAS EVERYONE FORGOTTEN THAT I'M FIELD LEADER?
LOOKS THAT WAY.

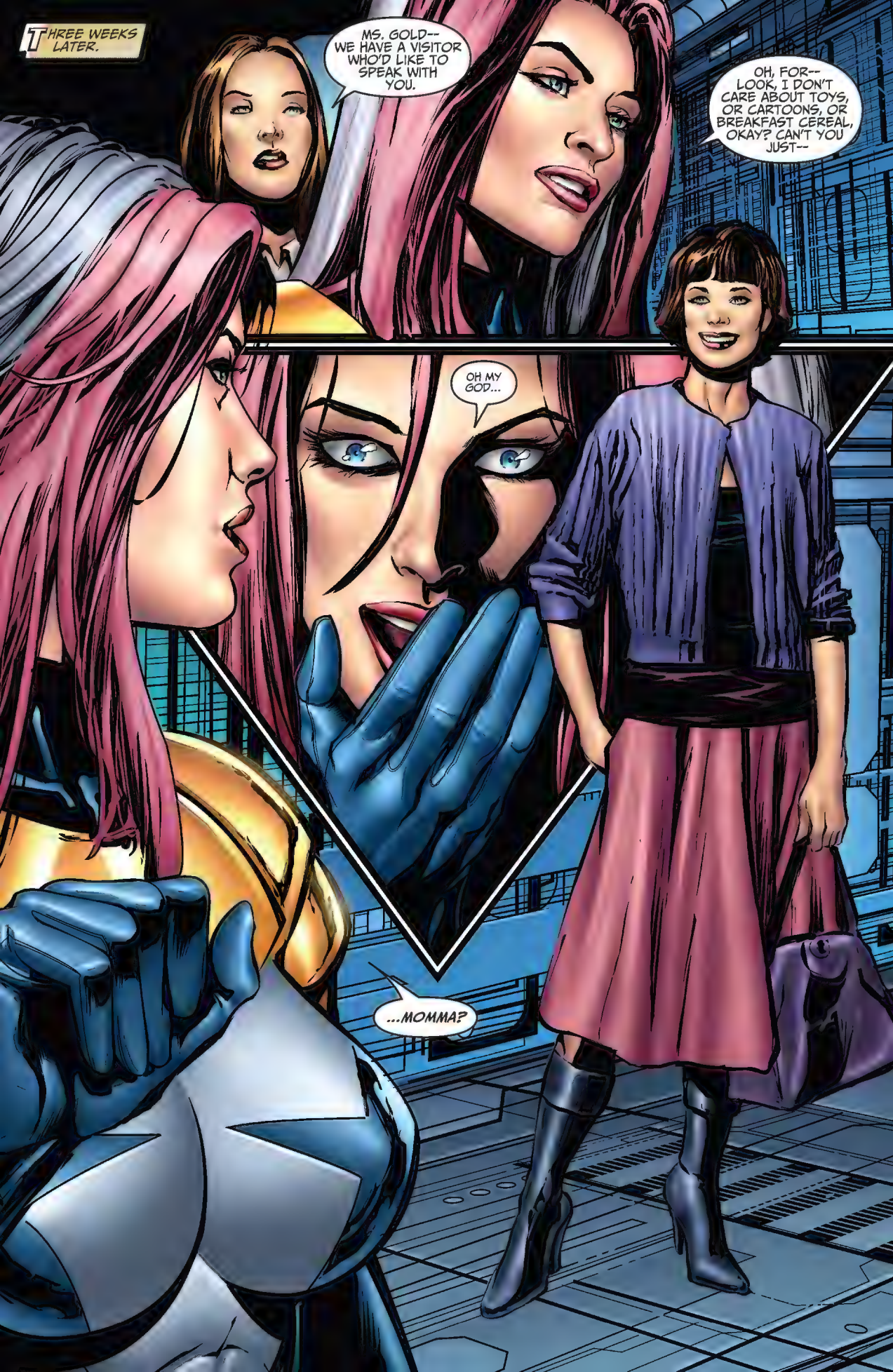
NO!
WHOOSH
STOP! THIS IS AN OLD-GROWTH FOREST! YOU'RE DESTROYING LIFE THAT'S BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES!
AS IF YOU CARE. THANKS TO YOU, THERE WON'T BE ANY LIFE HERE A FEW MINUTES FROM NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU--?
YOUR LIGHTNING BOLT DESTROYED MY CONTAINMENT SUIT.
I'M SURE YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TOO "ENLIGHTENED" TO WATCH TELEVISION...BUT SURELY EVEN YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL ME THE RADIOACTIVE MAN.
IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, I WILL REACH CRITICAL MASS.
AND THIS LUSH FOREST WILL BECOME A POISONED WASTELAND.
N-NO...
IF YOU STOP FIGHTING US, WE CAN GET HIM TO A CONTAINMENT CHAMBER IN TIME.
BUT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, WE'RE ALL DEAD... AND SO IS THE LAND.
I...I...

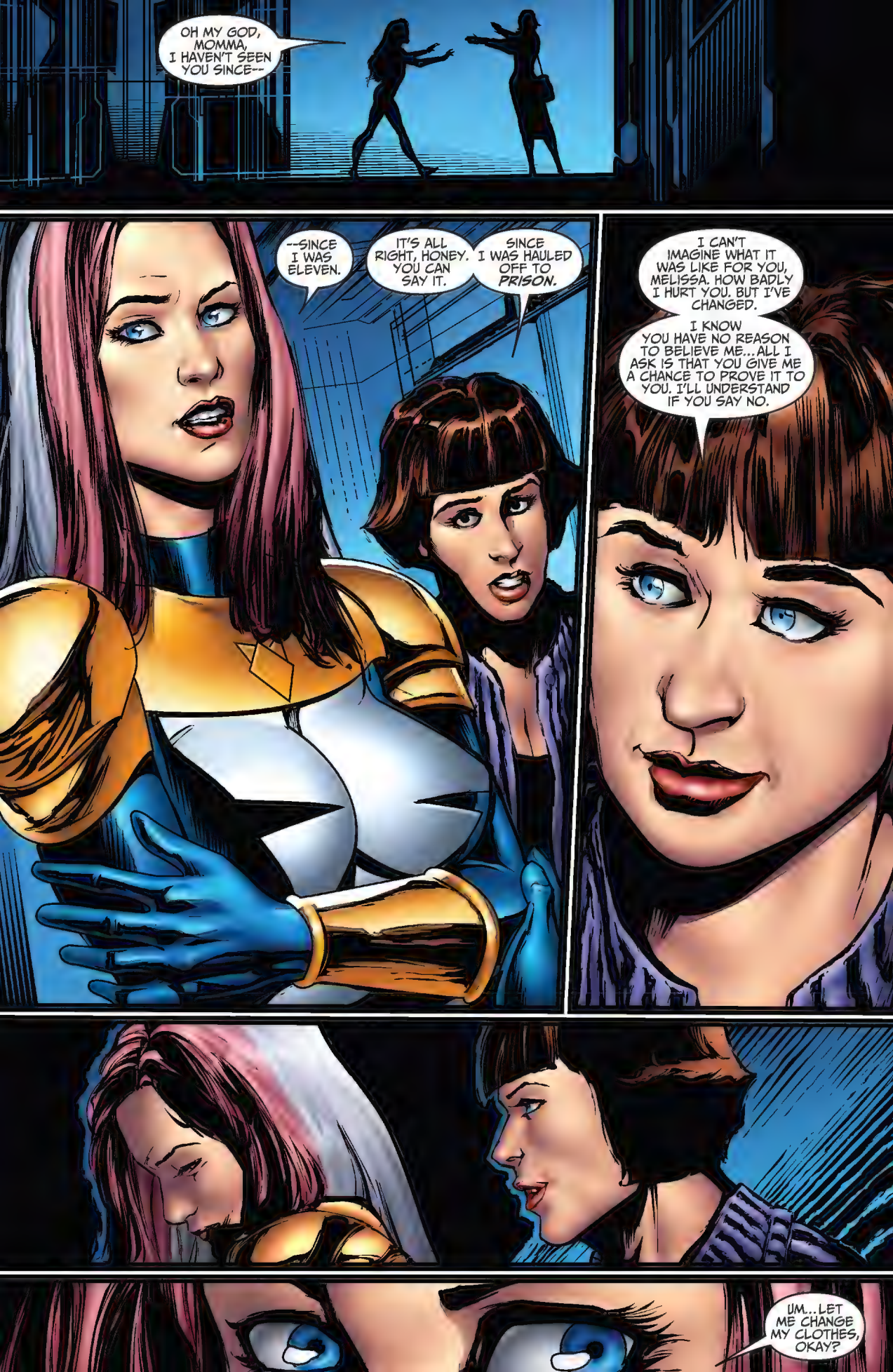

...I SURRENDER.
THANK YOU... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MARK.
THANK YOU, MARK. BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL. BUT ALL ANYONE WANTS IS FOR YOU TO REGISTER.
THEN YOU CAN USE YOUR POWERS TO HELP. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
LIKE YOU? YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE DONE ANYTHING GOOD LATELY?
I'M A HIPPIE, SISTER. I'M NOT STUPID.
BRAVO, MELISSA. SUCH GRAVITAS-- "WE'RE ALL DEAD... AND SO IS THE LAND." YOU ALMOST HAD ME BELIEVING YOU.
YES, IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE MY RIDICULOUS OUTFIT SERVE A PURPOSE FOR ONCE.
ASIDE FROM MOLLIFYING THE PUBLIC'S FEAR ABOUT A RISK THAT DOESN'T EXIST.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL SO PLEASED WITH YOURSELVES. YOU CAN THINK BACK ON THIS AND SMILE WHEN YOU'RE STUCK IN A CELL FOR INSUBORDINATION.
I AM NOT A PRISONER; I AM HERE AT THE COURTESY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. AND MELISSA WAS CORRECT; YOUR PLAN RISKED LIVES. HERS SAVED THEM.
YOU MAY WANT TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THAT, DR. LU...
...UNTIL AFTER NORMAN HEARS ABOUT THIS.

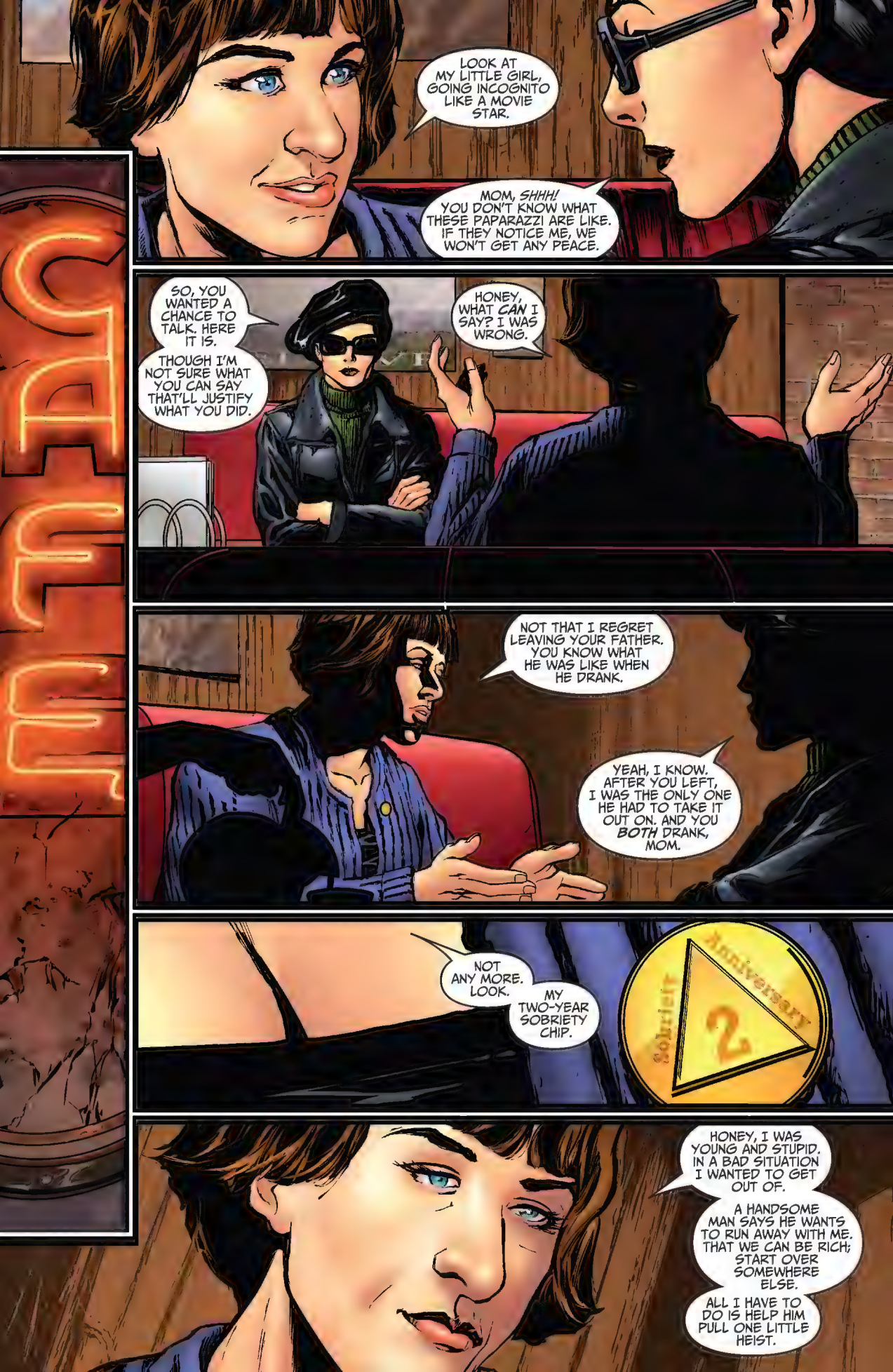
THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
YES, YES, TERRIBLE. CAN'T HAVE IT. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, WILL IT, MS. GOLD?
NOT UNLESS--
EXCELLENT. PROBLEM SOLVED.
ALL RIGHT, THEN, THE REST OF YOU ARE DISMISSED... SONGBIRD, MS. KRUPKE FROM MARKETING NEEDS YOU TO SIGN OFF ON THE DESIGNS FOR YOUR NEW ACTION FIGURES.
IT SEEMS YOU'RE QUITE A HIT WITH TWEEN GIRLS, SO WE'RE CREATING A WHOLE NEW LINE AROUND YOU.
HER? I'M TEAM LEADER, WHAT ABOUT ME?
OH, YOU'RE POPULAR AS WELL... JUST WITH A DIFFERENT SEGMENT OF THE MARKET. MALES 18 TO 49--A VERY DESIRABLE DEMOGRAPHIC.
THEY HAVE MORE DISPOSABLE INCOME, SO WE'RE THINKING OF A *HIGHER-END* COLLECTIBLE FOR YOU.
A LIMITED EDITION STATUE.
TRUST ME, IT'LL BE VERY TASTEFUL.
=FMMMF=

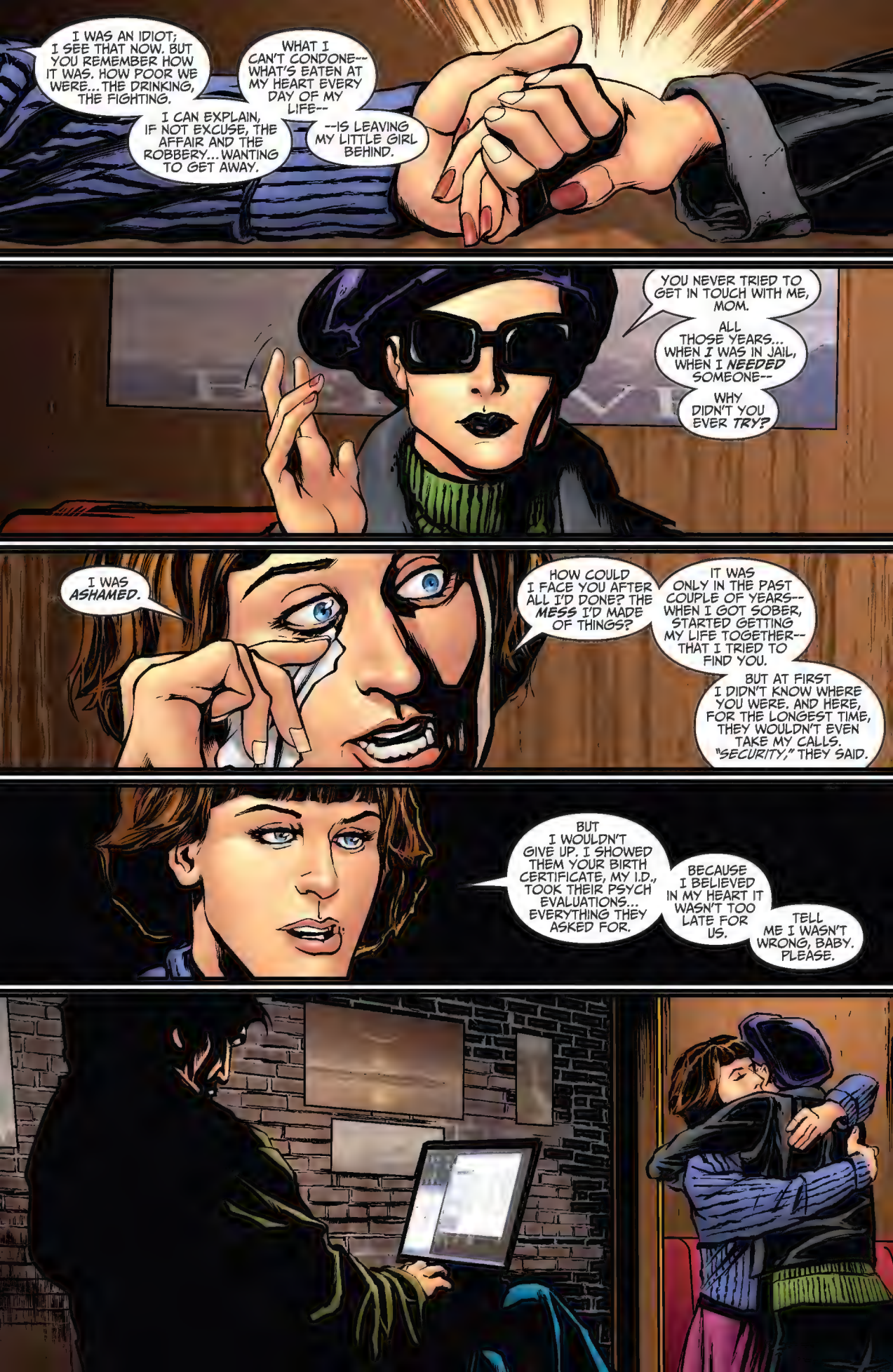

SWORDSMAN! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
BUT I'M RUNNING OFF TO PLACE AN ORDER FOR YOUR STATUE.
YES, VERY AMUSING. I CAN SEE WHY GERMANS ARE RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR.
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING, RUSHING TO FOLLOW SONGBIRD'S ORDERS LIKE A TRAINED MONKEY? I THOUGHT WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING.
YOU MEAN ABOUT KILLING SONGBIRD IN THE FIELD?
THAT'S WHAT *YOU* WANT. I NEVER EXPLICITLY AGREED TO HELP.
BUT YOU DIDN'T TELL HER, EITHER.
BECAUSE I SIMPLY DON'T CARE. I ALSO DIDN'T BOTHER TELLING YOU THAT YOUR PLAN IS ILL-ADVISED.

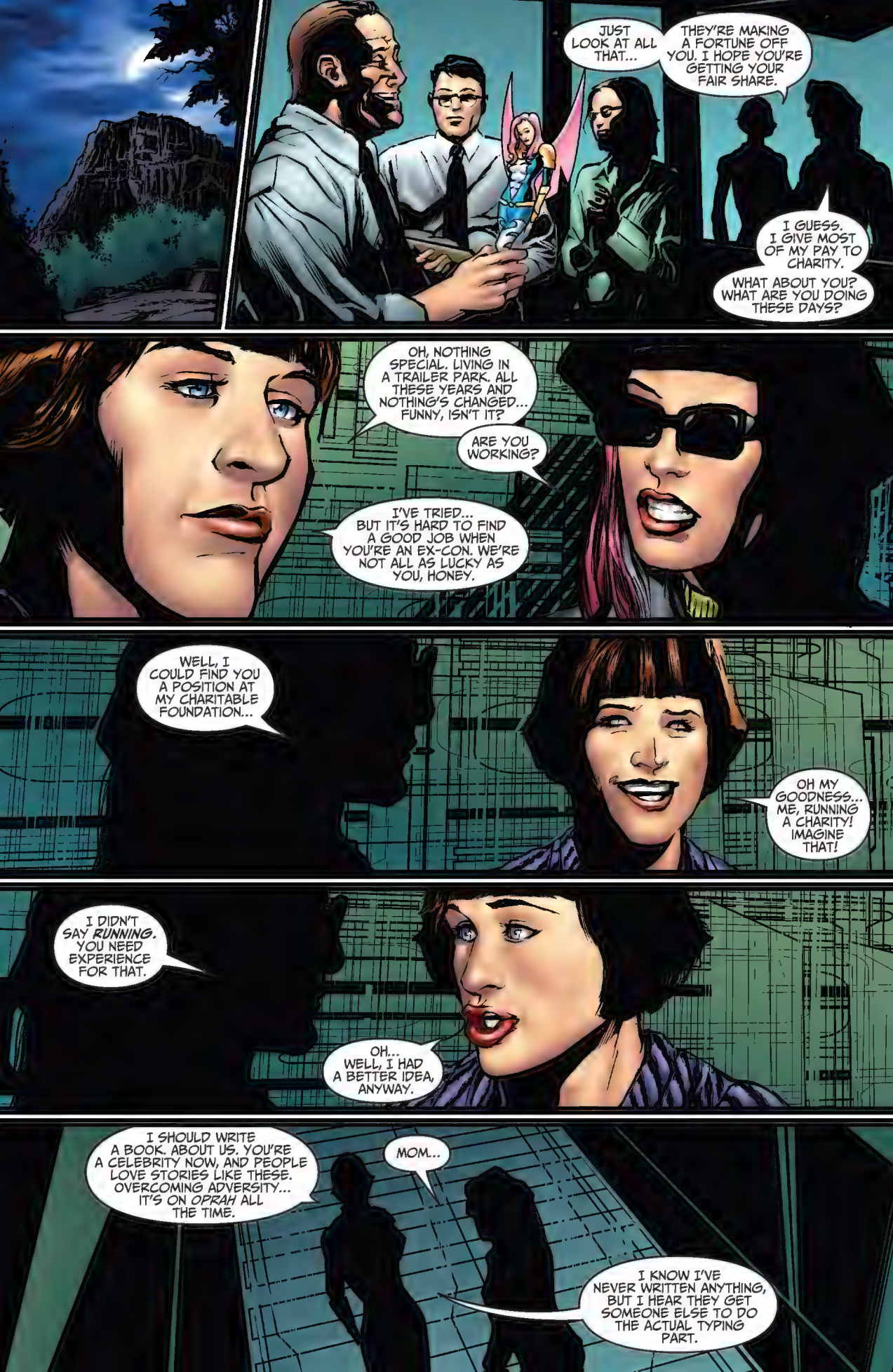

OKAY, I'LL BITE. IN WHAT WAY?
THE MAJORITY OF THE TEAM TRUSTS SONGBIRD--HER COMBAT INSTINCTS, AT LEAST. THAT'S WHY WE RESPOND TO HER ORDERS.
AND IT APPEARS THE PUBLIC FINDS HER MORE LIKEABLE THAN YOU.
WHEN SOMEONE LIKE THAT FALLS IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THEY BECOME A MARTYR. AN *IDEAL.*
LOOK AT *CAPTAIN AMERICA.* PEOPLE WHO WERE CALLING FOR HIS ARREST A FEW MONTHS AGO NOW WEEP AT THE MERE MENTION OF HIS NAME.
LET'S SAY YOU GET YOUR WISH: MELISSA DEAD, NORMAN SHIPPED OFF TO A PADDED ROOM, YOU RUNNING THE THUNDERBOLTS.
DO YOU REALLY WANT EVERYONE--FROM THE TEAM MEMBERS TO THE MAN ON THE STREET--CONSTANTLY SAYING, *"THAT'S NOT HOW SONGBIRD WOULD HAVE DONE IT?"*
YOU'RE THE PSYCHOLOGIST. YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU...
...YOU CAN'T COMPETE WITH A DEAD PERSON.
NO, YOU CAN'T.
NOT AS LONG AS SHE'S SO POPULAR WITH TWEENS...


THREE WEEKS LATER.
MS. GOLD-- WE HAVE A VISITOR WHO'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
OH, FOR-- LOOK, I DON'T CARE ABOUT TOYS, OR CARTOONS, OR BREAKFAST CEREAL, OKAY? CAN'T YOU JUST--
OH MY GOD...
...MOMMA?

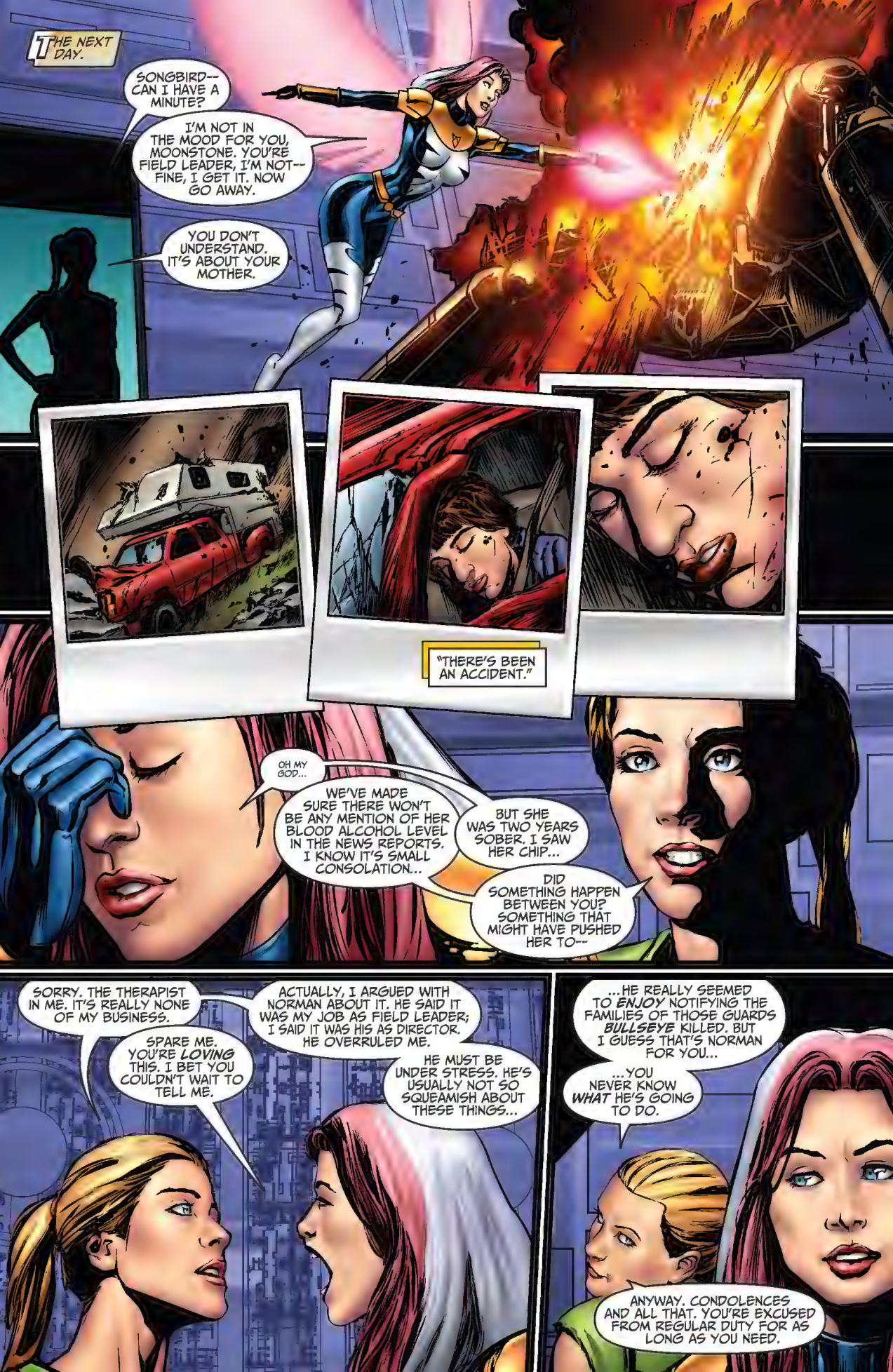

OH MY GOD, MOMMA, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE--
--SINCE I WAS ELEVEN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HONEY. YOU CAN SAY IT.
SINCE I WAS HAULED OFF TO PRISON.
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR YOU, MELISSA. HOW BADLY I HURT YOU. BUT I'VE CHANGED.
I KNOW YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE ME... ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PROVE IT TO YOU. I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU SAY NO.
UM... LET ME CHANGE MY CLOTHES, OKAY?

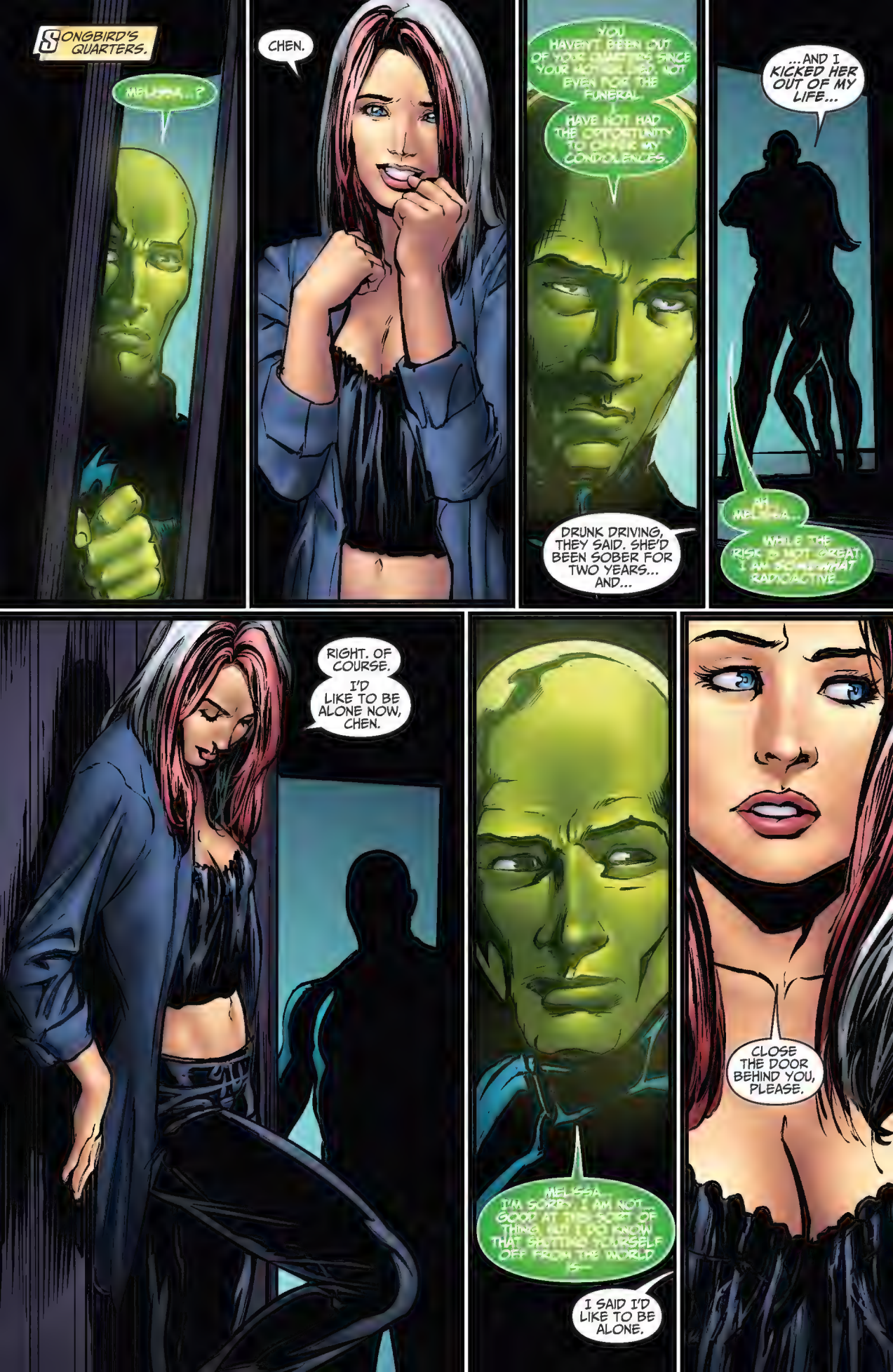

LOOK AT MY LITTLE GIRL, GOING INCOGNITO LIKE A MOVIE STAR.
MOM, SHHH! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE PAPARAZZI ARE LIKE. IF THEY NOTICE ME, WE WON'T GET ANY PEACE.
SO, YOU WANTED A CHANCE TO TALK. HERE IT IS.
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU CAN SAY THAT'LL JUSTIFY WHAT YOU DID.
HONEY, WHAT CAN I SAY? I WAS WRONG.
NOT THAT I REGRET LEAVING YOUR FATHER. YOU KNOW WHAT HE WAS LIKE WHEN HE DRANK.
YEAH, I KNOW. AFTER YOU LEFT, I WAS THE ONLY ONE HE HAD TO TAKE IT OUT ON. AND YOU BOTH DRANK, MOM.
NOT ANY MORE. LOOK.
MY TWO-YEAR SOBRIETY CHIP.
Soldier
Anniversary
2
HONEY, I WAS YOUNG AND STUPID. IN A BAD SITUATION I WANTED TO GET OUT OF.
A HANDSOME MAN SAYS HE WANTS TO RUN AWAY WITH ME. THAT WE CAN BE RICH; START OVER SOMEWHERE ELSE.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HELP HIM PULL ONE LITTLE HEIST.


I WAS AN IDIOT; I SEE THAT NOW. BUT YOU REMEMBER HOW IT WAS. HOW POOR WE WERE... THE DRINKING, THE FIGHTING.
I CAN EXPLAIN, IF NOT EXCUSE, THE AFFAIR AND THE ROBBERY... WANTING TO GET AWAY.
WHAT I CAN'T CONDONE--- WHAT'S EATEN AT MY HEART EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE--
--IS LEAVING MY LITTLE GIRL BEHIND.
YOU NEVER TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME, MOM.
ALL THOSE YEARS... WHEN I WAS IN JAIL, WHEN I NEEDED SOMEONE--
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TRY?
I WAS ASHAMED.
HOW COULD I FACE YOU AFTER ALL I'D DONE? THE MESS I'D MADE OF THINGS?
IT WAS ONLY IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS-- WHEN I GOT SOBER, STARTED GETTING MY LIFE TOGETHER-- THAT I TRIED TO FIND YOU.
BUT AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE. AND HERE, FOR THE LONGEST TIME, THEY WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE MY CALLS. "SECURITY," THEY SAID.
BUT I WOULDN'T GIVE UP. I SHOWED THEM YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE, MY I.D., TOOK THEIR PSYCH EVALUATIONS... EVERYTHING THEY ASKED FOR.
BECAUSE I BELIEVED IN MY HEART IT WASN'T TOO LATE FOR US.
TELL ME I WASN'T WRONG, BABY. PLEASE.

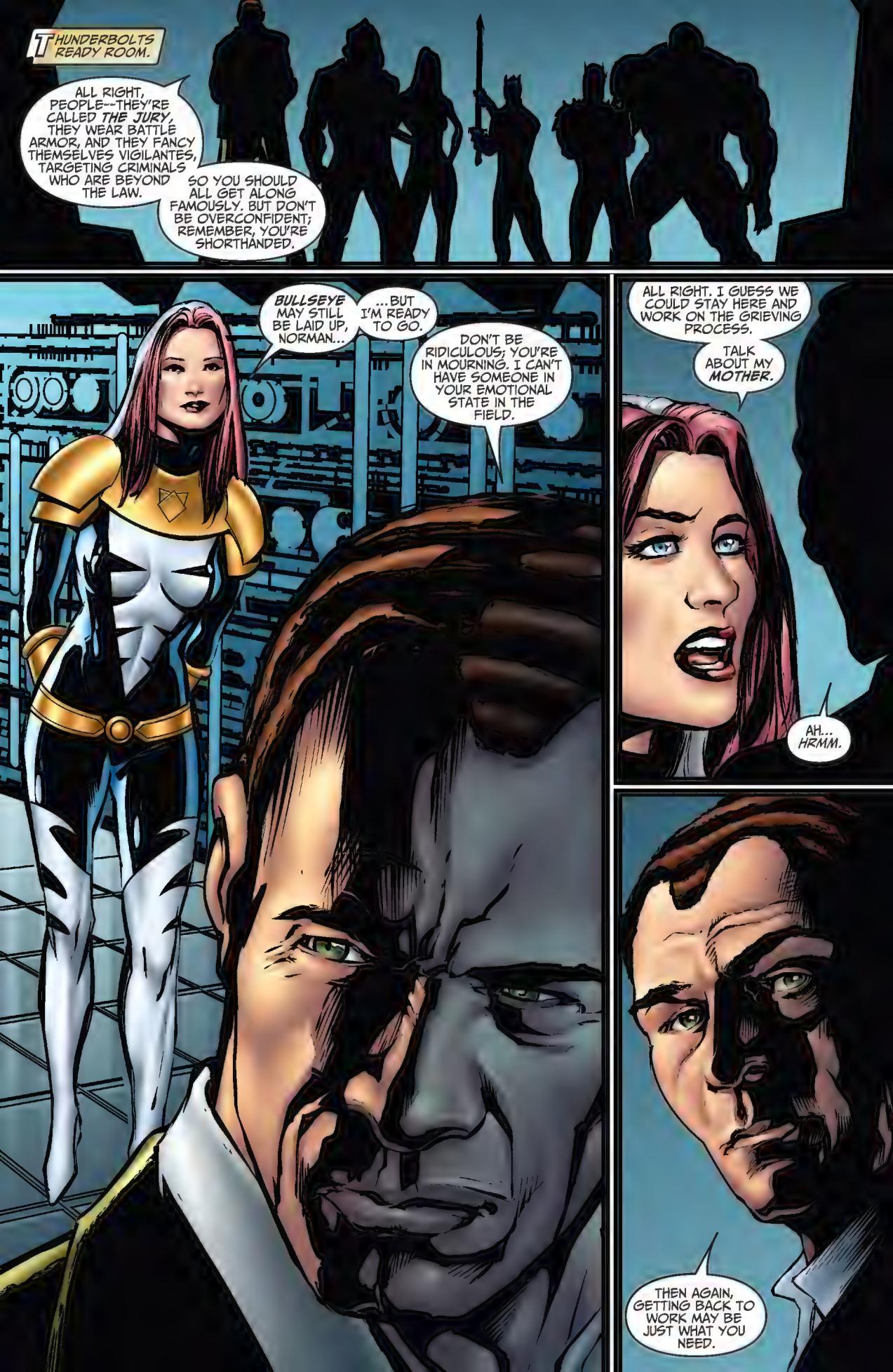

JUST LOOK AT ALL THAT...
THEY'RE MAKING A FORTUNE OFF YOU. I HOPE YOU'RE GETTING YOUR FAIR SHARE.
I GUESS. I GIVE MOST OF MY PAY TO CHARITY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING THESE DAYS?
OH, NOTHING SPECIAL. LIVING IN A TRAILER PARK. ALL THESE YEARS AND NOTHING'S CHANGED... FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
ARE YOU WORKING?
I'VE TRIED... BUT IT'S HARD TO FIND A GOOD JOB WHEN YOU'RE AN EX-CON. WE'RE NOT ALL AS LUCKY AS YOU, HONEY.
WELL, I COULD FIND YOU A POSITION AT MY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION...
OH MY GOODNESS... ME, RUNNING A CHARITY! IMAGINE THAT!
I DIDN'T SAY *RUNNING.* YOU NEED EXPERIENCE FOR THAT.
OH... WELL, I HAD A BETTER IDEA, ANYWAY.
I SHOULD WRITE A BOOK. ABOUT US. YOU'RE A CELEBRITY NOW, AND PEOPLE LOVE STORIES LIKE THESE. OVERCOMING ADVERSITY... IT'S ON *OPRAH* ALL THE TIME.
MOM...
I KNOW I'VE NEVER WRITTEN ANYTHING, BUT I HEAR THEY GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THE ACTUAL TYPING PART.

MOM, HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING? I DON'T *WANT* PEOPLE READING ABOUT ME! I DON'T CARE ABOUT *ANY* OF THAT STUFF!
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT, MELISSA. THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS IN YOUR PAST THAT MIGHT NOT LOOK SO GOOD IF THEY CAME OUT THE WRONG WAY.
SOMEBODY'S GOING TO MAKE MONEY OFF YOU. IT MIGHT AS WELL BE FAMILY.
GET OUT OF HERE, MOM.
DON'T EVER TRY TO CONTACT ME AGAIN.
MELISSA, WHAT ON *EARTH*--?
WELL, I NEVER.
MMM. CHILDREN. WE HOPE THEY'LL BE OUR PRIDE AND JOY...
...BUT THEY CAN JUST AS EASILY BE OUR GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT.


THE NEXT DAY.
SONGBIRD--CAN I HAVE A MINUTE?
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR YOU, MOONSTONE. YOU'RE FIELD LEADER, I'M NOT--FINE, I GET IT. NOW GO AWAY.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT'S ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.
"THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT."
OH MY GOD...
WE'VE MADE SURE THERE WON'T BE ANY MENTION OF HER BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL IN THE NEWS REPORTS. I KNOW IT'S SMALL CONSOLATION...
BUT SHE WAS TWO YEARS SOBER. I SAW HER CHIP...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU? SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HAVE PUSHED HER TO--
SORRY. THE THERAPIST IN ME. IT'S REALLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
SPARE ME. YOU'RE *LOVING* THIS. I BET YOU COULDN'T WAIT TO TELL ME.
ACTUALLY, I ARGUED WITH NORMAN ABOUT IT. HE SAID IT WAS MY JOB AS FIELD LEADER; I SAID IT WAS HIS AS DIRECTOR. HE OVERRULED ME.
HE MUST BE UNDER STRESS. HE'S USUALLY NOT SO SQUEAMISH ABOUT THESE THINGS...
...HE REALLY SEEMED TO *ENJOY* NOTIFYING THE FAMILIES OF THOSE GUARDS *BULLSEYE* KILLED. BUT I GUESS THAT'S NORMAN FOR YOU...
...YOU NEVER KNOW *WHAT* HE'S GOING TO DO.
ANYWAY. CONDOLENCES AND ALL THAT. YOU'RE EXCUSED FROM REGULAR DUTY FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED.


SONGBIRD'S QUARTERS.
MELISSA...?
CHEN.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF YOUR QUARTERS SINCE YOUR MOTHER DIED. NOT EVEN FOR THE FUNERAL.
I HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER MY CONDOLENCES.
DRUNK DRIVING, THEY SAID. SHE'D BEEN SOBER FOR TWO YEARS... AND...
...AND I KICKED HER OUT OF MY LIFE...
AH, MELISSA...
WHILE THE RISK IS NOT GREAT, I AM SOMEWHAT RADIOACTIVE...
RIGHT. OF COURSE.
I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE NOW, CHEN.
MELISSA... I'M SORRY. I AM NOT... GOOD AT THIS SORT OF THING, BUT I DO KNOW THAT SHUTTING YOURSELF OFF FROM THE WORLD IS—
I SAID I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE.
CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU, PLEASE.

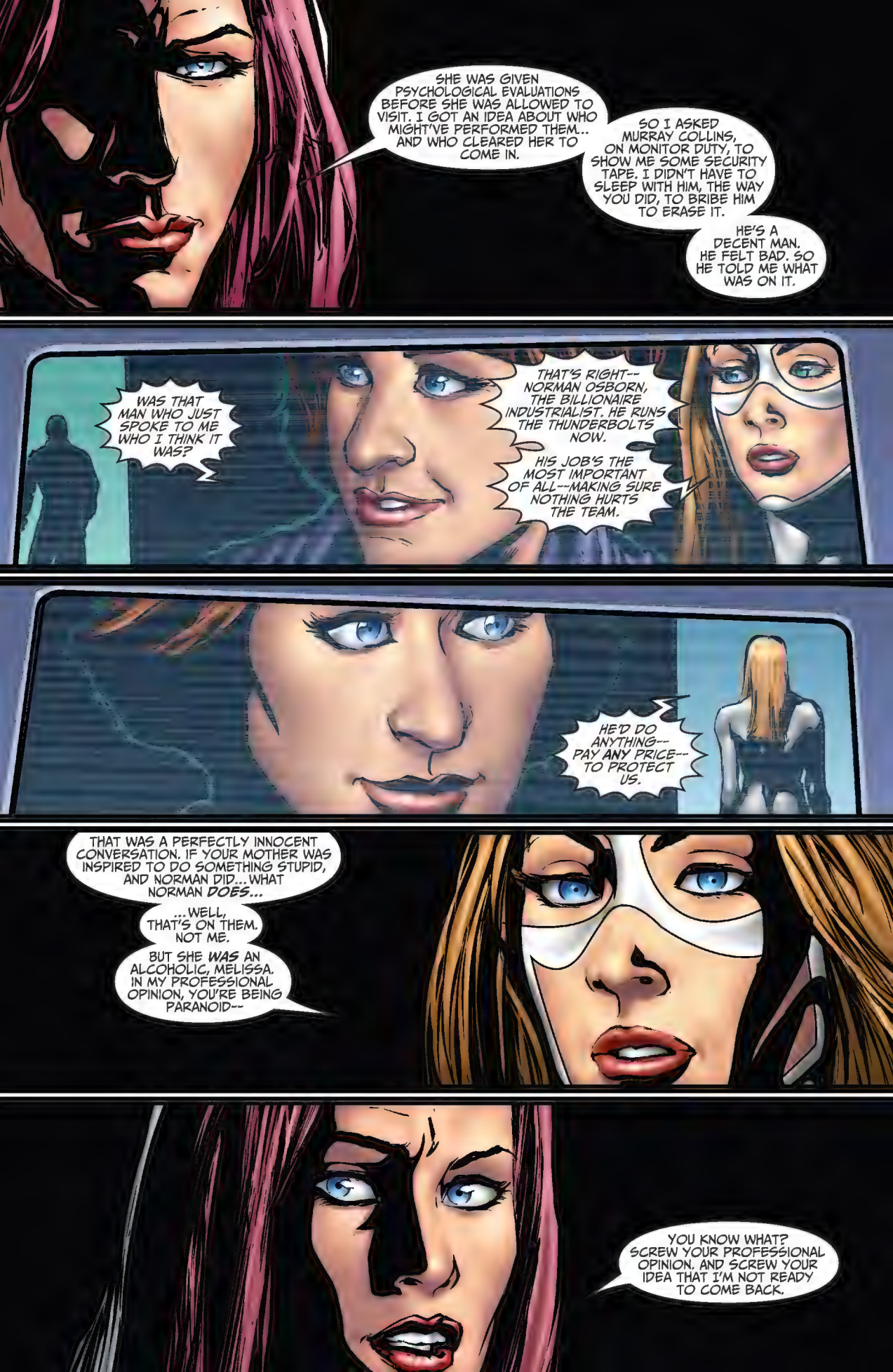
AHHHH...
I DON'T... I JUST DON'T KNOW...
...I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT ANY MORE...

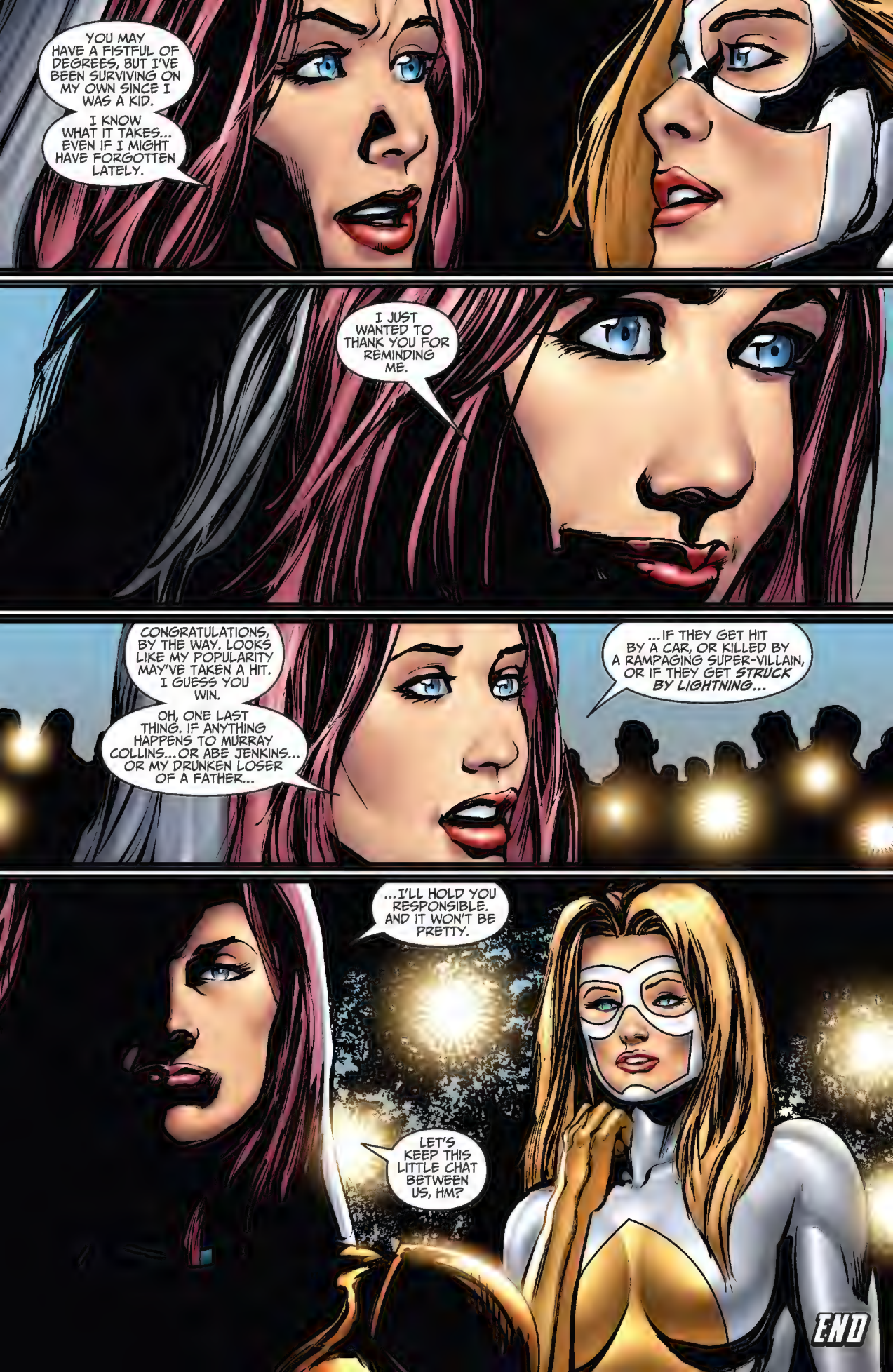

THUNDERBOLTS READY ROOM.
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE--THEY'RE CALLED THE JURY, THEY WEAR BATTLE ARMOR, AND THEY FANCY THEMSELVES VIGILANTES, TARGETING CRIMINALS WHO ARE BEYOND THE LAW.
SO YOU SHOULD ALL GET ALONG FAMOUSLY. BUT DON'T BE OVERCONFIDENT; REMEMBER, YOU'RE SHORTHANDED.
BULLSEYE MAY STILL BE LAID UP, NORMAN...
...BUT I'M READY TO GO.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS; YOU'RE IN MOURNING. I CAN'T HAVE SOMEONE IN YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE IN THE FIELD.
ALL RIGHT. I GUESS WE COULD STAY HERE AND WORK ON THE GRIEVING PROCESS.
TALK ABOUT MY MOTHER.
AH... HRMM.
THEN AGAIN, GETTING BACK TO WORK MAY BE JUST WHAT YOU NEED.

NNAGGHH!
LISTEN... I'M NOT... THE SAME VENOM... YOU GUYS HAD A BEEF WITH!
DOESN'T MATTER. I DON'T CARE WHAT SHADY BACK ROOM DEALS YOU'VE MADE... YOU'RE ALL CRIMINALS.
YOU SHOULD BE THE FUGITIVES! YOU SHOULD BE RUNNING AND HIDING AND EATING OUT OF TRASH CANS!
I'VE FOUGHT THESE LOSERS BEFORE. THEIR WEAKNESS IS THEIR POWER PACKS--ON THEIR BACKS. FOCUS FIRE ON THOSE!
VREEEEEEEEE
IDIOTS. YOU THINK WE DON'T LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES?
WE'VE GOT SECONDARY POWER UNITS THROUGHOUT OUR ARMOR NOW.
HNGHH!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS. YOU'RE FIGHTING LIKE AMATEURS.
GET OUT OF THE WAY AND LET ME HANDLE IT.

WYSPER! BEHIND YOU, TWO O'CLOCK!
THANKS, I'M--
NGAHH!
SENTRY?! BUT YOU --
NO, THAT WAS ME, ACTUALLY, HIJACKING YOUR FREQUENCY. OKAY, TEAM, THEY'RE LEADERLESS...
...LET'S TAKE 'EM OUT!
SONGBIRD, FIREARM'S COMING UP BEHIND ME. INTERCEPT WHILE I FINISH OFF BOMBLAST.
FTAMM
HNGAAHH!
WHOOPS.
MY BAD.

SONGBIRD! YOU SEEMED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY BRUTAL--DO YOU THINK YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH HAS AFFECTED--
AAH!
I JUST BLEW OUT YOUR MICROPHONES. GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I DO THE SAME TO YOUR EARDRUMS.
WITCH. LET'S SEE HOW SHE LIKES IT WHEN I DIG UP HER TRASHY OLD WRESTLING FOOTAGE...
SONGBIRD!
SO THEY GET MAD AT ME. I'D THINK THAT'D MAKE YOU ALL WARM AND FUZZY INSIDE, MOONSTONE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING? ANTAGONIZING THE MEDIA, SNAPPING AT YOUR TEAMMATES?
I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH YOU NOT PICKING UP FIREARM'S ATTACK ON ME. I WON'T PRETEND WE'RE FRIENDS, BUT THE REPORTERS COULD'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN THE BLAST.
IT'S UNLIKE YOU TO RISK INNOCENT LIVES FOR A PERSONAL VENDETTA. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT READY TO COME BACK.
PSYCH EVALUATIONS, MY MOM SAID.
EXCUSE ME?


SHE WAS GIVEN PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS BEFORE SHE WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT. I GOT AN IDEA ABOUT WHO MIGHT'VE PERFORMED THEM... AND WHO CLEARED HER TO COME IN.
SO I ASKED MURRAY COLLINS, ON MONITOR DUTY, TO SHOW ME SOME SECURITY TAPE. I DIDN'T HAVE TO SLEEP WITH HIM, THE WAY YOU DID, TO BRIBE HIM TO ERASE IT.
HE'S A DECENT MAN. HE FELT BAD. SO HE TOLD ME WHAT WAS ON IT.
WAS THAT MAN WHO JUST SPOKE TO ME WHO I THINK IT WAS?
THAT'S RIGHT-- NORMAN OSBORN, THE BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST. HE RUNS THE THUNDERBOLTS NOW.
HIS JOB'S THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL--MAKING SURE NOTHING HURTS THE TEAM.
HE'D DO ANYTHING-- PAY ANY PRICE-- TO PROTECT US.
THAT WAS A PERFECTLY INNOCENT CONVERSATION. IF YOUR MOTHER WAS INSPIRED TO DO SOMETHING STUPID, AND NORMAN DID...WHAT NORMAN DOES...
...WELL, THAT'S ON THEM. NOT ME.
BUT SHE WAS AN ALCOHOLIC, MELISSA. IN MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION, YOU'RE BEING PARANOID--
YOU KNOW WHAT? SCREW YOUR PROFESSIONAL OPINION. AND SCREW YOUR IDEA THAT I'M NOT READY TO COME BACK.


YOU MAY HAVE A FISTFUL OF DEGREES, BUT I'VE BEEN SURVIVING ON MY OWN SINCE I WAS A KID.
I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES... EVEN IF I MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN LATELY.
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME.
CONGRATULATIONS, BY THE WAY. LOOKS LIKE MY POPULARITY MAY'VE TAKEN A HIT. I GUESS YOU WIN.
OH, ONE LAST THING. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO MURRAY COLLINS... OR ABE JENKINS... OR MY DRUNKEN LOSER OF A FATHER...
...IF THEY GET HIT BY A CAR, OR KILLED BY A RAMPAGING SUPER-VILLAIN, OR IF THEY GET *STRUCK BY LIGHTNING*...
...I'LL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE. AND IT WON'T BE PRETTY.
LET'S KEEP THIS LITTLE CHAT BETWEEN US, HM?
END

MARVEL
1
THUNDERBOLTS
INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT
GAGE · OLIVER · VILLARRUBIA

Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts--federal marshalls, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

THUNDERBOLTS

INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT

When civil war split the superhuman community down the middle, the government recruited super-villains to hunt down unregistered super heroes acting in violation of the law. A new Thunderbolts team led by Norman Osborn and including violent recruits such as Venom and Penance was assembled and cast into the public spotlight. Of the "old" team, only former leader Songbird, new field leader Moonstone, and foreign nationals Radioactive Man and Swordsman remain.

For Radioactive Man, this means serving on an American team that answers to the government-run Commission on Superhuman Activity while still answering to his native China. But so far, Dr. Chen Lu's loyalties have never been called into question...

Christos N. Gage Writer	Ben Oliver Artist	Jose Villarrubia Color Art	RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne Letterer
Marko Djurdjevic Cover Art	Molly Lazer Editor	Joe Quesada Editor in Chief	Dan Buckley Publisher

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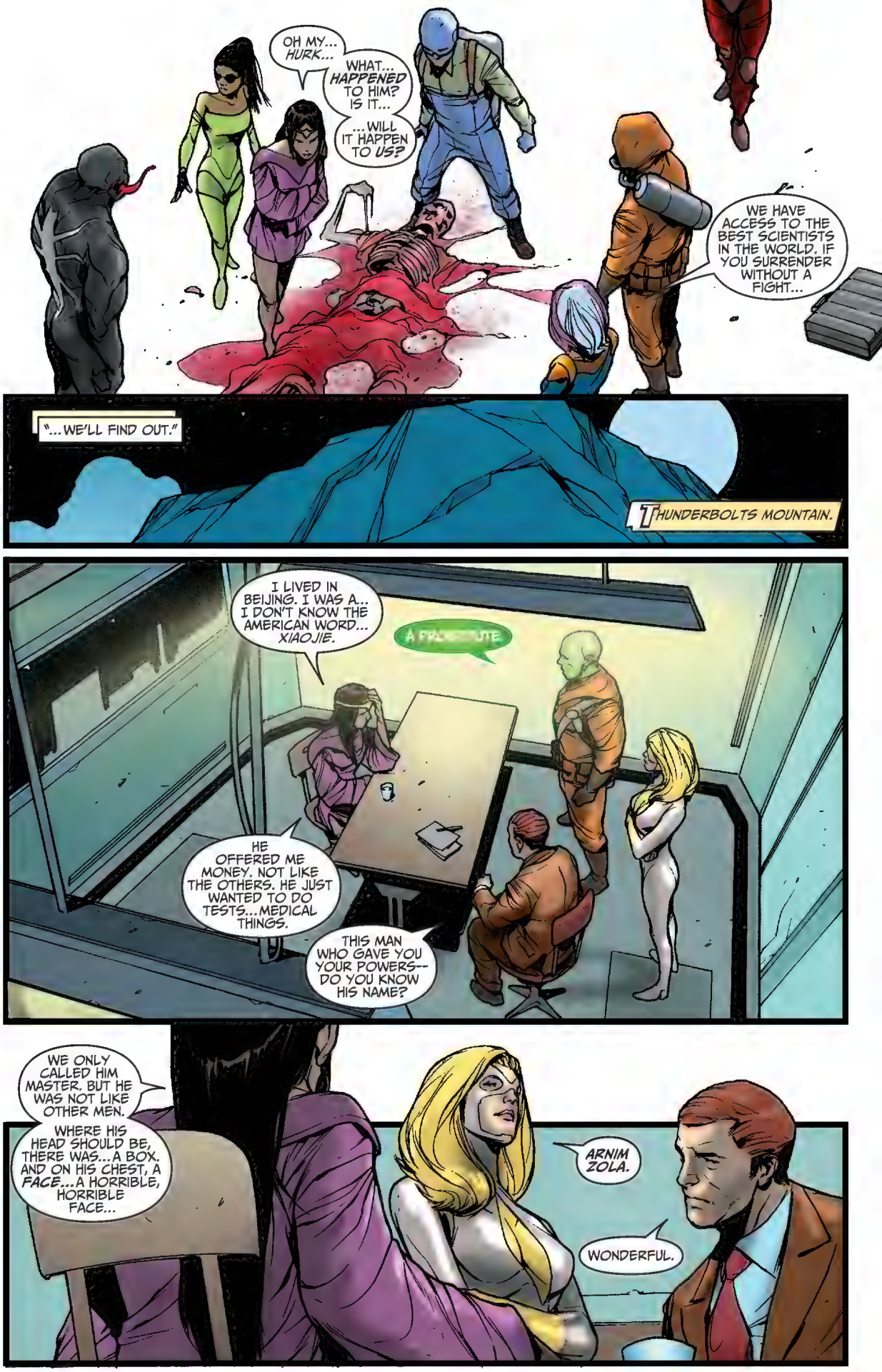
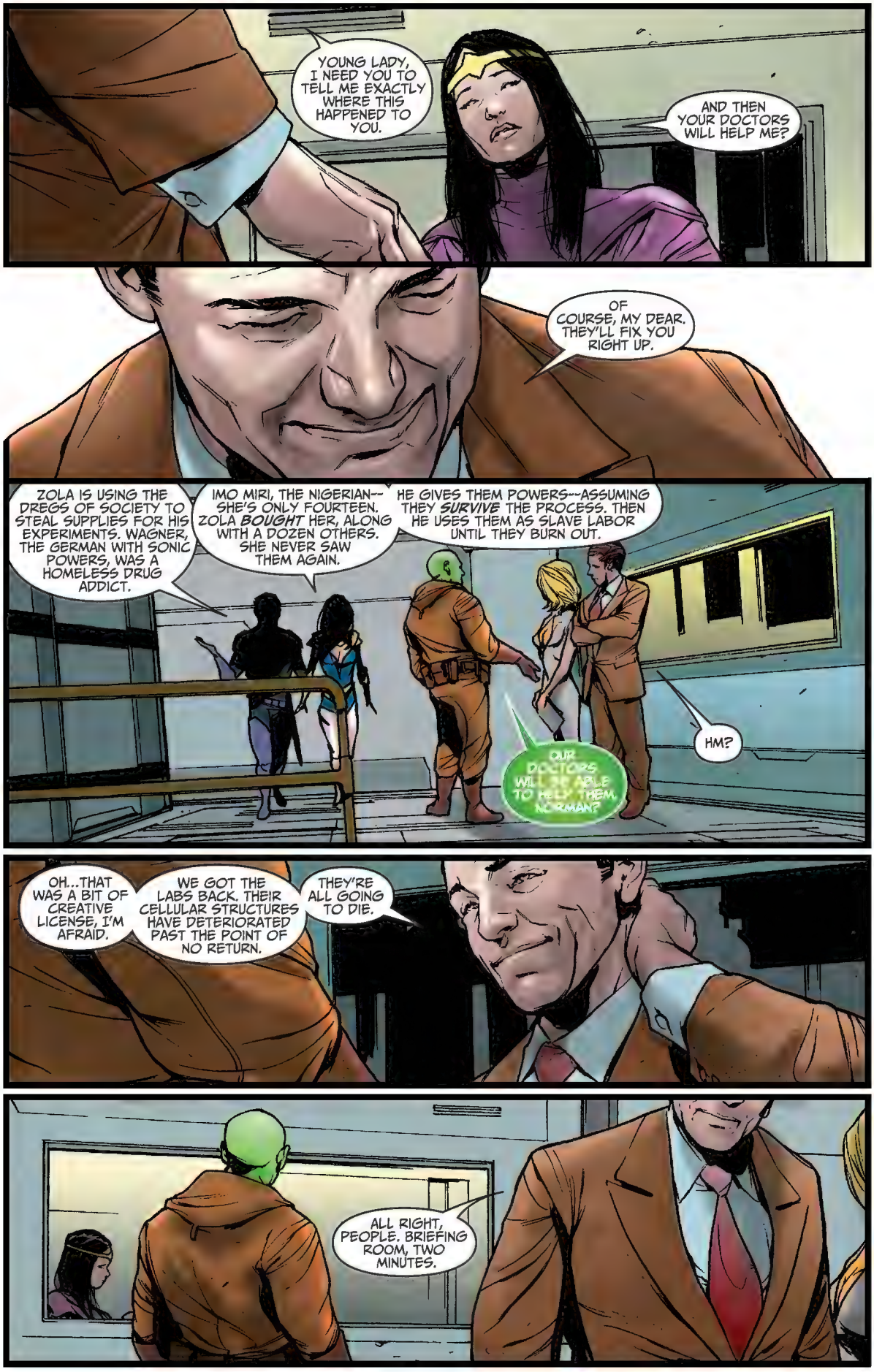
THUNDERBOLTS WATCH! with TIFFANY VASQUEZ
ENN
THIS IS TIFFANY VASQUEZ WITH THUNDERBOLTS WATCH! IS PENANCE GAY? DOES SONGBIRD HAVE A BABY BUMP? WE'LL TRY TO FIND OUT, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!
I'M COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA, WHERE THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE IN COMBAT WITH UNIDENTIFIED OPPONENTS!
THE VILLAINS ARE TRYING TO STEAL SOMETHING--PROBABLY DEADLY VIRUSES FOR USE IN W.M.D.'S! POLICE ARE HELPLESS AGAINST THEIR SUPERHUMAN POWER!
WITH GEORGIA'S INITIATIVE SUPER-TEAM STILL IN TRAINING, THINGS LOOKED HOPELESS...
...UNTIL THE THUNDERBOLTS STRUCK WITH THE FORCE OF THEIR NAME!
LADY, ARE YOU CRAZY? GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
KRSSSH
VENOM! IS IT TRUE PENANCE IS DATING LANCE BASS?
YES. YES, IT IS. TELL YOU WHAT, COME BY THE MOUNTAIN FOR A PRIVATE INTERVIEW AND I'LL--
--SUCK THE MARROW FROM YOUR BONES--
UH... GOTTA GO. DUTY CALLS.

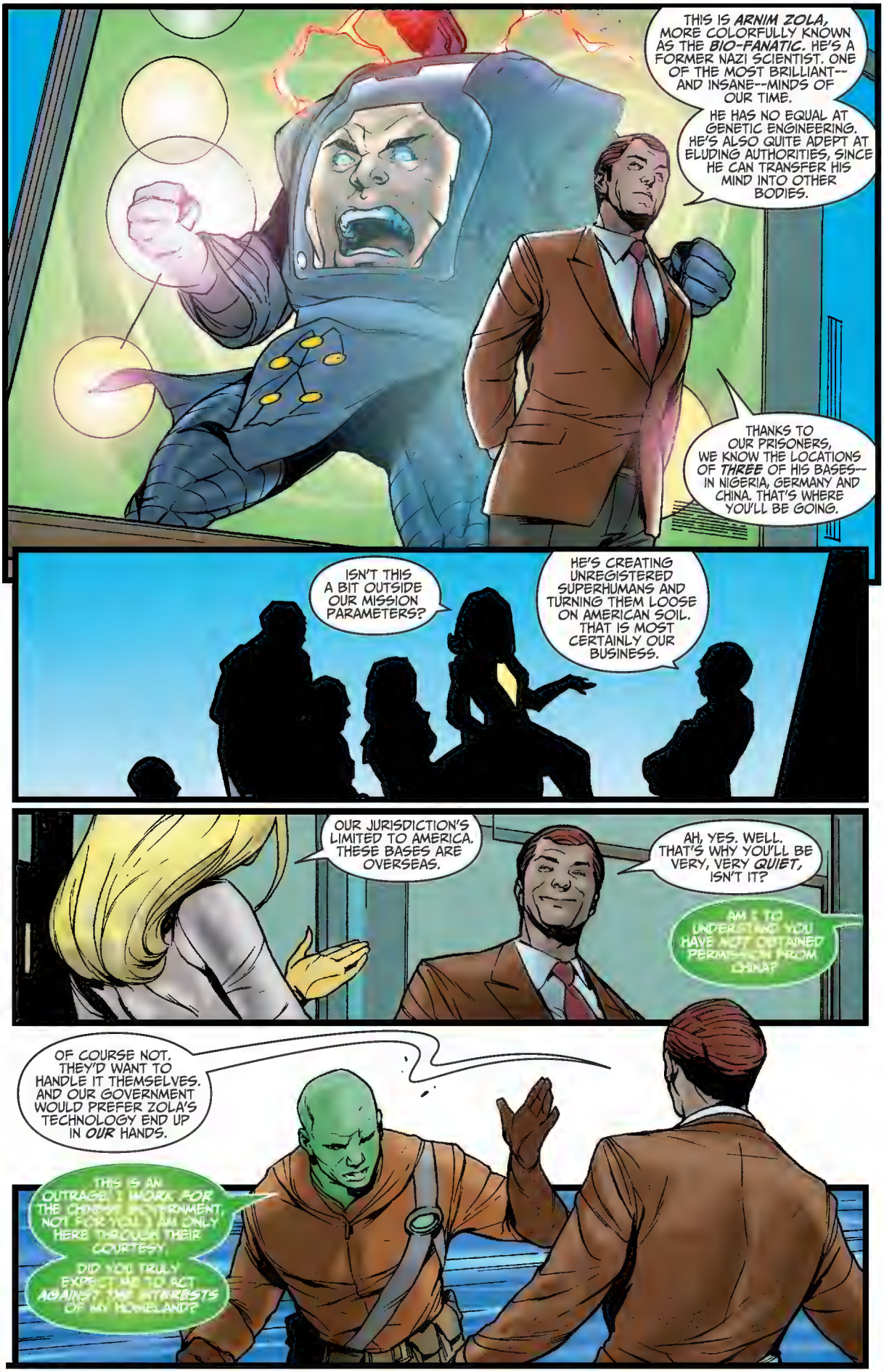
HEY, MOONSTONE, THIS ISN'T IN MY CONTRACT!
OUR JOB'S TO BRING IN UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMANS. WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING FIGHTING THIEVES?
USE YOUR EYES-- THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY SUPERHUMAN. AND THEY'RE NOT IN OUR DATABASE, WHICH MEANS THEY'RE UNREGISTERED.
SO GET TO WORK BEFORE I FRY EVERY CELL IN WHAT PASSES FOR YOUR BRAIN.

IMO MIRI, YOU ARE NOT A FIRE HOSE! USE YOUR POWERS WISELY.
THE HUMAN BODY IS PRIMARILY WATER; DRAW THAT OUT AND IT DIES.
I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE, CHU JUNG.
DO AS I SAY, GIRL!
I AM SORRY, AMERICAN, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE. IF YOU RUN NOW, PERHAPS YOU CAN STILL ESCAPE.
THAT'S NICE. TOO BAD YOU WON'T.
SEE, HALF OF ME IS AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE... AND IT'S GOT A SICK LITTLE MIND OF ITS OWN.

FENG PO-PO! WAGNER MUST ESCAPE WITH THE PACKAGE. CLEAR A SPACE FOR HIM!
"CHI JUNG," "FENG PO-PO"... YOU TWO ARE NAMED AFTER CHINESE GODS.
BUT YOU ARE NOT GODS.
AND YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE.
NO!
STUPID AMERICANS. IF YOU HAD LEFT US ALONE, YOU COULD HAVE LIVED.
BUT NOW, YOU WILL ALL BURN. NOW YOU WILL--
WAIT. WHAT--
--WHAT IS HAPPENING TO...
...ME...

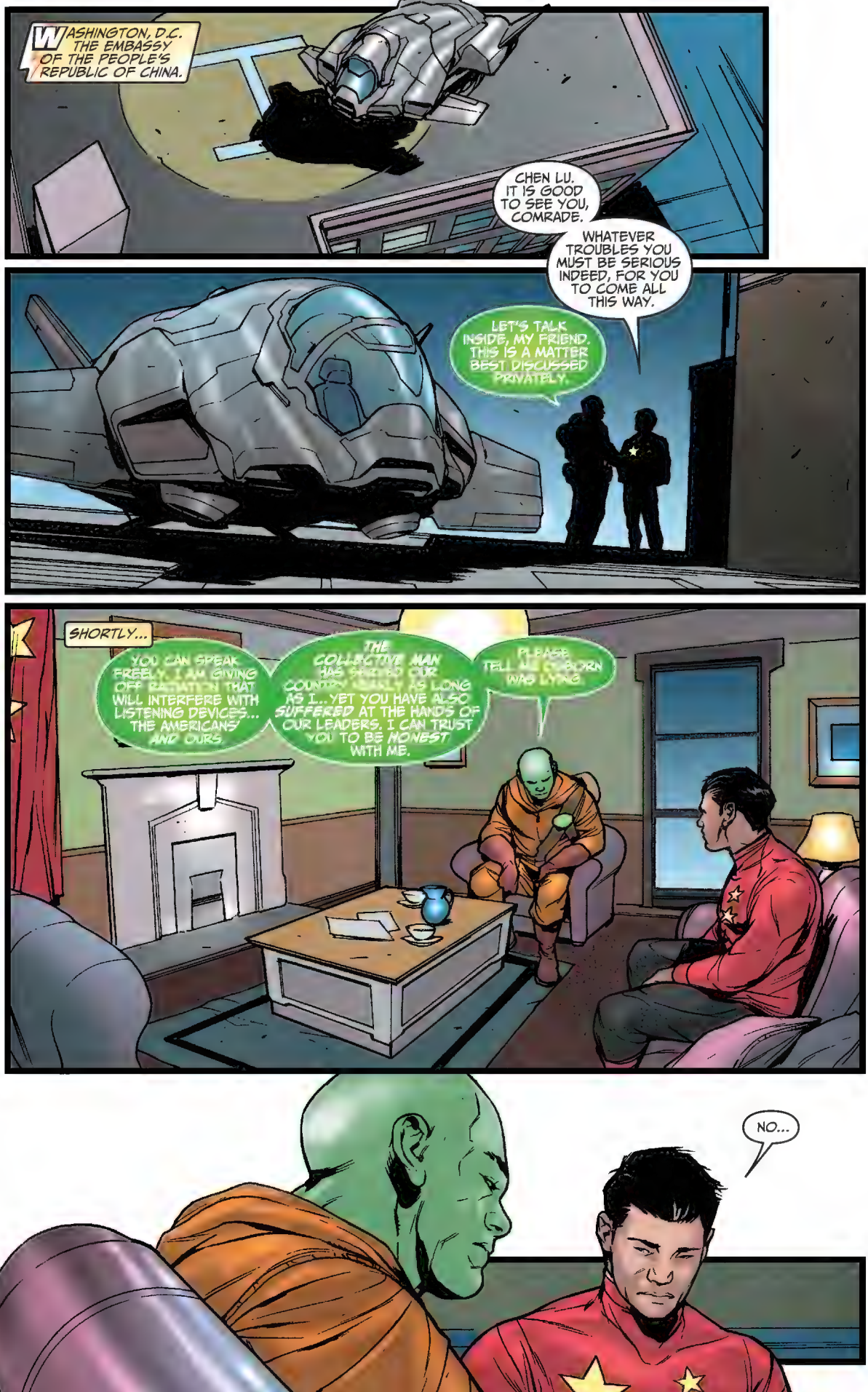

OH MY... HURK...
WHAT... HAPPENED TO HIM? IS IT...
...WILL IT HAPPEN TO US?
WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD. IF YOU SURRENDER WITHOUT A FIGHT...
"...WE'LL FIND OUT."
THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
I LIVED IN BEIJING. I WAS A... I DON'T KNOW THE AMERICAN WORD... XIAOJIE.
HE OFFERED ME MONEY. NOT LIKE THE OTHERS. HE JUST WANTED TO DO TESTS...MEDICAL THINGS.
THIS MAN WHO GAVE YOU YOUR POWERS-- DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
WE ONLY CALLED HIM MASTER. BUT HE WAS NOT LIKE OTHER MEN.
WHERE HIS HEAD SHOULD BE, THERE WAS...A BOX. AND ON HIS CHEST, A FACE...A HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE FACE...
ARNIM ZOLA.
WONDERFUL.

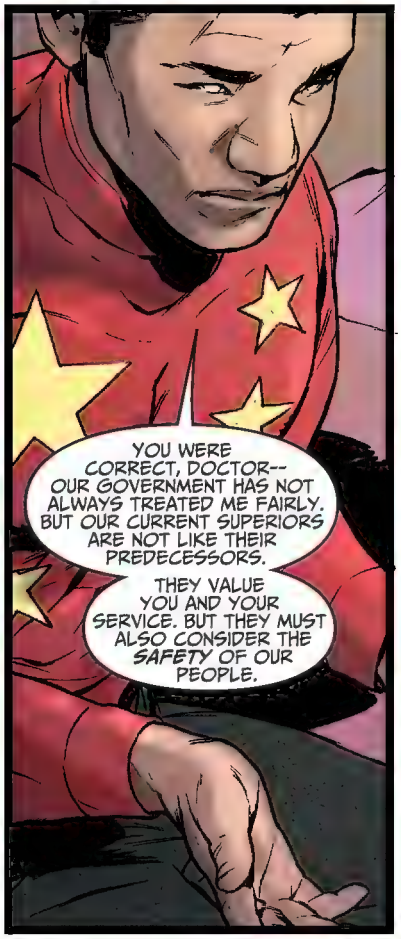

YOUNG LADY, I NEED YOU TO TELL ME EXACTLY WHERE THIS HAPPENED TO YOU.
AND THEN YOUR DOCTORS WILL HELP ME?
OF COURSE, MY DEAR. THEY'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP.
ZOLA IS USING THE DREGS OF SOCIETY TO STEAL SUPPLIES FOR HIS EXPERIMENTS. WAGNER, THE GERMAN WITH SONIC POWERS, WAS A HOMELESS DRUG ADDICT.
IMO MIRI, THE NIGERIAN--SHE'S ONLY FOURTEEN. ZOLA BOUGHT HER, ALONG WITH A DOZEN OTHERS. SHE NEVER SAW THEM AGAIN.
HE GIVES THEM POWERS--ASSUMING THEY SURVIVE THE PROCESS. THEN HE USES THEM AS SLAVE LABOR UNTIL THEY BURN OUT.
OUR DOCTORS WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THEM, NORMAN?
HM?
OH...THAT WAS A BIT OF CREATIVE LICENSE, I'M AFRAID.
WE GOT THE LABS BACK. THEIR CELLULAR STRUCTURES HAVE DETERIORATED PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN.
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE. BRIEFING ROOM, TWO MINUTES.


THIS IS ARNIM ZOLA, MORE COLORFULLY KNOWN AS THE BIO-FANATIC. HE'S A FORMER NAZI SCIENTIST. ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT--AND INSANE--MINDS OF OUR TIME.
HE HAS NO EQUAL AT GENETIC ENGINEERING. HE'S ALSO QUITE ADEPT AT ELUDING AUTHORITIES, SINCE HE CAN TRANSFER HIS MIND INTO OTHER BODIES.
THANKS TO OUR PRISONERS, WE KNOW THE LOCATIONS OF THREE OF HIS BASES--IN NIGERIA, GERMANY AND CHINA. THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL BE GOING.
ISN'T THIS A BIT OUTSIDE OUR MISSION PARAMETERS?
HE'S CREATING UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMANS AND TURNING THEM LOOSE ON AMERICAN SOIL. THAT IS MOST CERTAINLY OUR BUSINESS.
OUR JURISDICTION'S LIMITED TO AMERICA. THESE BASES ARE OVERSEAS.
AH, YES. WELL. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE VERY, VERY QUIET, ISN'T IT?
AM I TO UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE NOT OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM CHINA?
OF COURSE NOT. THEY'D WANT TO HANDLE IT THEMSELVES. AND OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER ZOLA'S TECHNOLOGY END UP IN OUR HANDS.
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! I WORK FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, NOT FOR YOU! I AM ONLY HERE THROUGH THEIR COURTESY.
DID YOU TRULY EXPECT ME TO ACT AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF MY HOMELAND?

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO FINDS THIS QUESTIONABLE. SWORDSMAN, YOU'RE A FOREIGN NATIONAL, AND SONGBIRD— SURELY YOU...
CHEN, YOU DIDN'T KNOW *HALLIE TAKAHAMA*--OUR OLD TEAMMATE, JOLT. ZOLA GAVE HER POWERS...BUT IN THE PROCESS, DOZENS OF OTHER KIDS *DIED*, OR BECAME MONSTERS.
IF HE'S STILL OUT THERE, DOING THIS... I WANT HIM SHUT DOWN. AND NO OFFENSE, BUT I TRUST *MYSELF* TO DO IT A LOT MORE THAN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.
I AM GOING TO INFORM MY SUPERIORS OF YOUR PLANS. I WOULD RATHER ENJOY IT IF YOU TRIED TO STOP ME.
WAIT. LET'S SPEAK IN PRIVATE.
SO YOU CAN ATTACK ME WITH "NON-LETHAL GAS" OR SOME SIMILAR EXCUSE? I THINK NOT. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT. OR GET OUT OF MY WAY.
FINE. YOU KNOW THAT LOVELY STORY ABOUT YOUR GOVERNMENT *LOANING* YOU TO US, TO "FOSTER GOODWILL BETWEEN OUR NATIONS"?
HOW YOU'LL SERVE WITH US FOR A YEAR, THEN GO HOME TO A CUSHY JOB LIKE SUPERVISING LEAD PAINT PLACEMENT IN CHILDREN'S TOYS?
IT'S ALL A LIE, DOCTOR. THEY *DON'T WANT* YOU BACK.
THEY LIKE HAVING YOU AS THEIR AGENT IN THE U.S., BUT THEY'RE AFRAID OF YOUR RADIOACTIVE POWERS.
IF YOU EVER LOSE CONTROL, THE WAY YOU HAVE IN THE PAST, THEY WANT THE BIG BANG TO HAPPEN ON *AMERICAN* SOIL, NOT THEIRS.
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT.
I HAVE YOUR EMBASSY ON SPEED DIAL. SHALL I CALL THEM SO YOU CAN ASK?
I WILL DO SO MYSELF. AND THEN THERE WILL BE A RECKONING, OSBORN.
THAT WAS LOVELY. SWORDSMAN-- A WORD IN MY OFFICE, PLEASE?

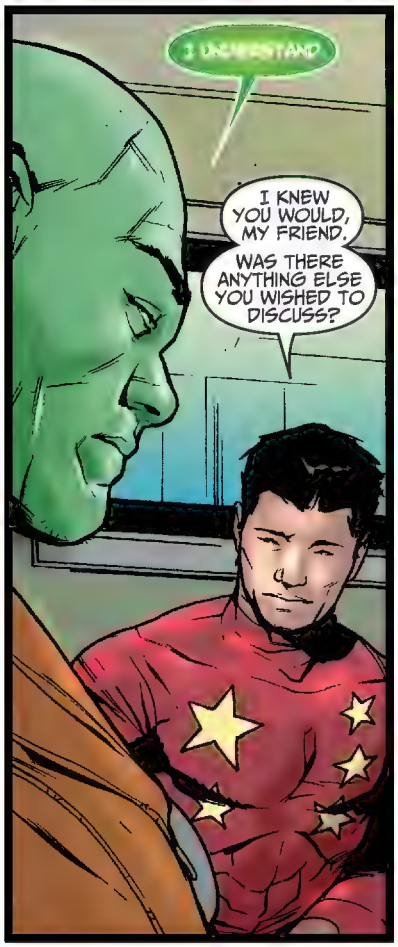
SO. IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A SCENE TOO, LET'S GET IT OVER WITH.
I HAVE NO LOVE FOR GERMANY, AND EVEN LESS FOR ARNIM ZOLA. HE AND MY FATHER WERE ALLIES; THAT'S REASON ENOUGH FOR ME TO KILL HIM.
HAVING SAID THAT, I FIND INVADING OTHER COUNTRIES DISTASTEFUL, AND HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IF WE WERE CAUGHT, YOU WOULD DISAVOW ANY KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ACTIONS.
I HAVE NO LOYALTY TO ANY COUNTRY, TO YOU OR TO ANYONE ELSE... EXCEPT MY SISTER. YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RETURN HER TO LIFE. HOW IS THAT PROGRESSING?
WELL, CLONING IS DIFFICULT BY ITSELF, AS YOU KNOW. SINCE YOU AND YOUR SISTER WERE GENETICALLY ALTERED TO GIVE YOU POWERS, IT'S THAT MUCH TRICKIER.
HOWEVER, WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS. I EXPECT TO HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU SOON.
SO I CAN ASSUME YOU WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM PARTICIPATING IN THIS MISSION?
NO. THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM.


WASHINGTON, D.C. THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
CHEN LU. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU, COMRADE.
WHATEVER TROUBLES YOU MUST BE SERIOUS INDEED, FOR YOU TO COME ALL THIS WAY.
LET'S TALK INSIDE, MY FRIEND. THIS IS A MATTER BEST DISCUSSED PRIVATELY.
SHORTLY...
YOU CAN SPEAK FREELY. I AM GIVING OFF RADIATION THAT WILL INTERFERE WITH LISTENING DEVICES... THE AMERICANS' AND OURS.
THE COLLECTIVE MAN HAS SHIELDED OUR COUNTRY ABLY AS LONG AS I... YET YOU HAVE ALSO SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF OUR LEADERS. I CAN TRUST YOU TO BE HONEST WITH ME.
PLEASE TELL ME CHEN BORN WAS LYING.
NO...

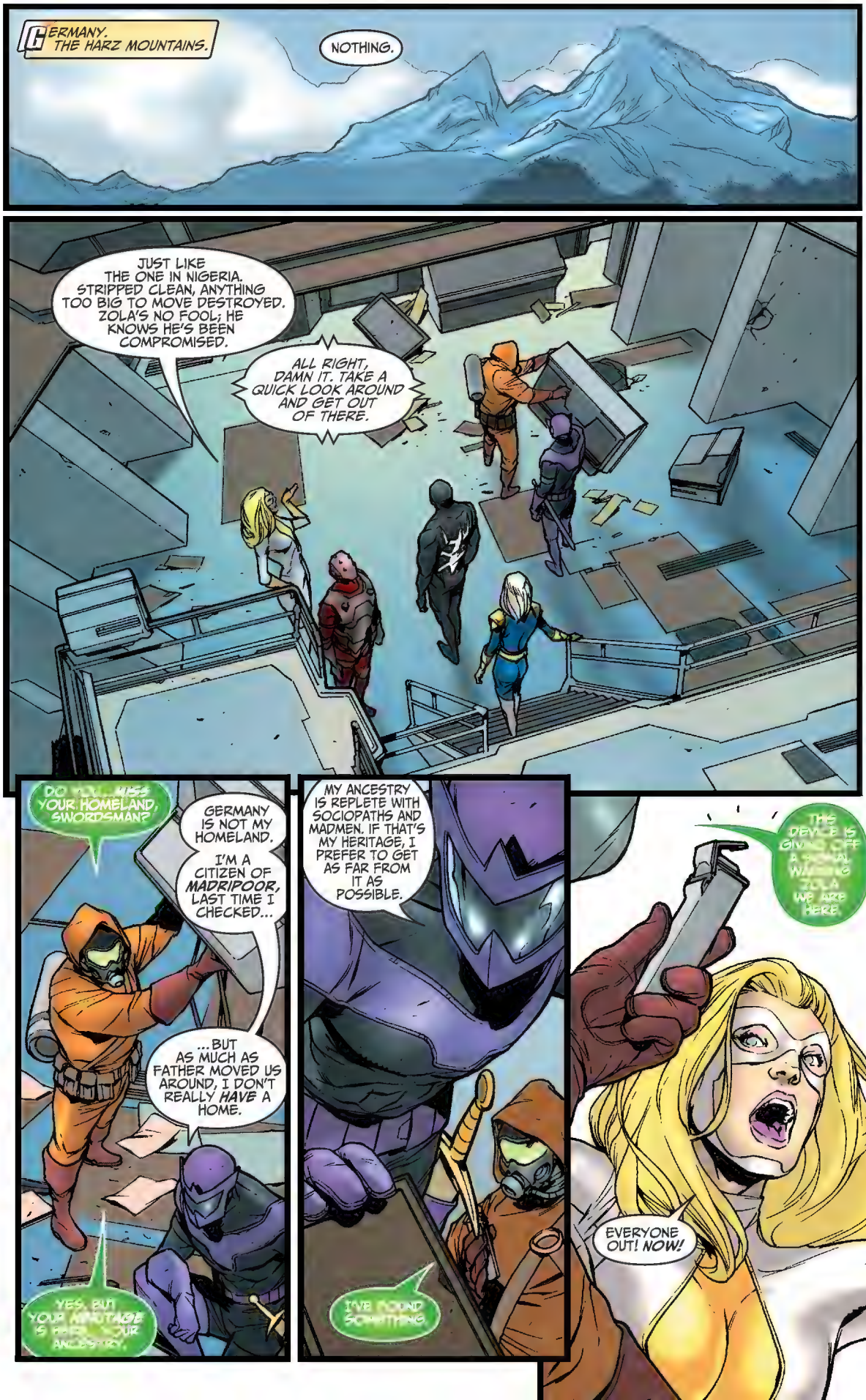

YOU WERE CORRECT, DOCTOR-- OUR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ALWAYS TREATED ME FAIRLY. BUT OUR CURRENT SUPERIORS ARE NOT LIKE THEIR PREDECESSORS.
THEY VALUE YOU AND YOUR SERVICE. BUT THEY MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE *SAFETY* OF OUR PEOPLE.

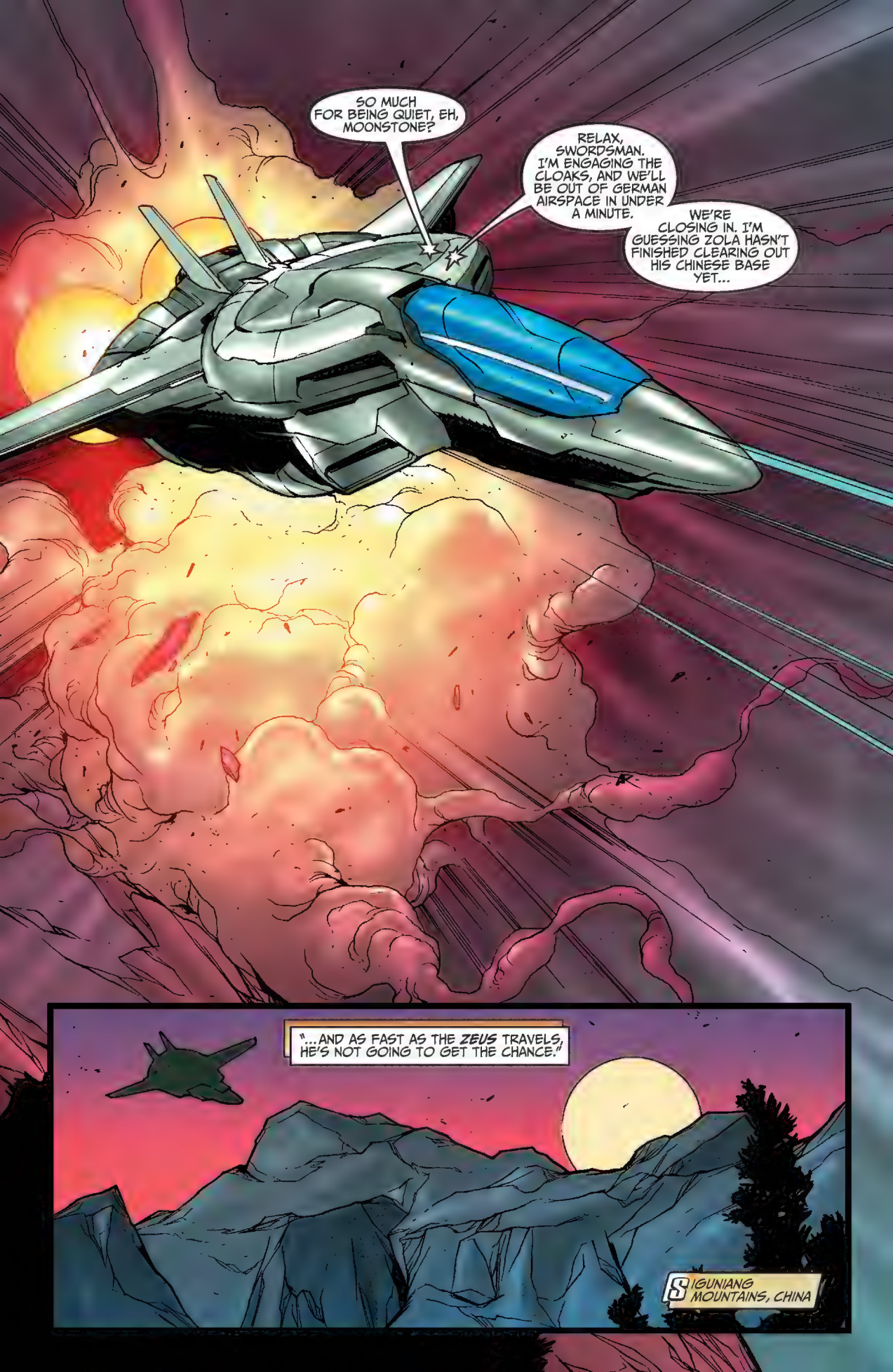
HAVEN'T YOUR POWERS MADE YOU... *UNSTABLE* IN THE PAST?
THAT IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE! OUR SCIENTISTS HELPED ME BRING MY ABILITIES UNDER CONTROL!
AND YET, WHO CAN SAY IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN?

WITH YOUR POWER, AN UNFORTUNATE... INCIDENT... COULD COST THE LIVES OF MILLIONS.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS. I SYMPATHIZE. BUT IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION SUCH DECISIONS. OURS IS BUT TO SERVE... OR NOT.
BOTH OUR LEADERS AND I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO SERVE.


I UNDERSTAND
I KNEW YOU WOULD, MY FRIEND.
WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WISHED TO DISCUSS?

UCA
NOTHING ELSE


GERMANY. THE HARZ MOUNTAINS.
NOTHING.
JUST LIKE THE ONE IN NIGERIA. STRIPPED CLEAN, ANYTHING TOO BIG TO MOVE DESTROYED. ZOLA'S NO FOOL; HE KNOWS HE'S BEEN COMPROMISED.
ALL RIGHT, DAMN IT. TAKE A QUICK LOOK AROUND AND GET OUT OF THERE.
DO YOU... MISS YOUR HOMELAND, SWORDSMAN?
GERMANY IS NOT MY HOMELAND.
I'M A CITIZEN OF MADRIPOOR, LAST TIME I CHECKED...
...BUT AS MUCH AS FATHER MOVED US AROUND, I DON'T REALLY HAVE A HOME.
YES, BUT YOUR HERITAGE IS HERE. YOUR ANCESTRY.
MY ANCESTRY IS REPLETE WITH SOCIOPATHS AND MADMEN. IF THAT'S MY HERITAGE, I PREFER TO GET AS FAR FROM IT AS POSSIBLE.
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING.
THIS DEVICE IS GIVING OFF A SIGNAL. WARNING ZOLA WE ARE HERE.
EVERYONE OUT! NOW!


SO MUCH FOR BEING QUIET, EH, MOONSTONE?
RELAX, SWORDSMAN. I'M ENGAGING THE CLOAKS, AND WE'LL BE OUT OF GERMAN AIRSPACE IN UNDER A MINUTE.
WE'RE CLOSING IN. I'M GUESSING ZOLA HASN'T FINISHED CLEARING OUT HIS CHINESE BASE YET...
"...AND AS FAST AS THE ZEUS TRAVELS, HE'S NOT GOING TO GET THE CHANCE."
SIGUNIANG MOUNTAINS, CHINA

ZOLA'S GOT THE BASE WELL HIDDEN. I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY SOUNDS.
I SENSE ANOMALOUS ENERGIES, BUT CAN'T PINPOINT THEM.
WE KNOW WE'RE IN THE BALLPARK. I'LL TURN INTANGIBLE AND FLY THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN. WE'VE GOT TO BE...
...CLOSE...
I HATE ARNIM ZOLA.

WE'RE THROUGH!
BE READY FOR ANYTHING, PEOPLE. I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE--
--AND I STILL WANT TO THROW UP.

THIS IS JUST A DISTRACTION! THEY'RE BUYING TIME FOR ZOLA TO ESCAPE WITH HIS WORK!

THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE REASON HE HASN'T BLOWN THIS PLACE UP LIKE THE LAST ONE.

I CAN GET PAST THEM, BUT THIS COMPLEX IS HUGE. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO --

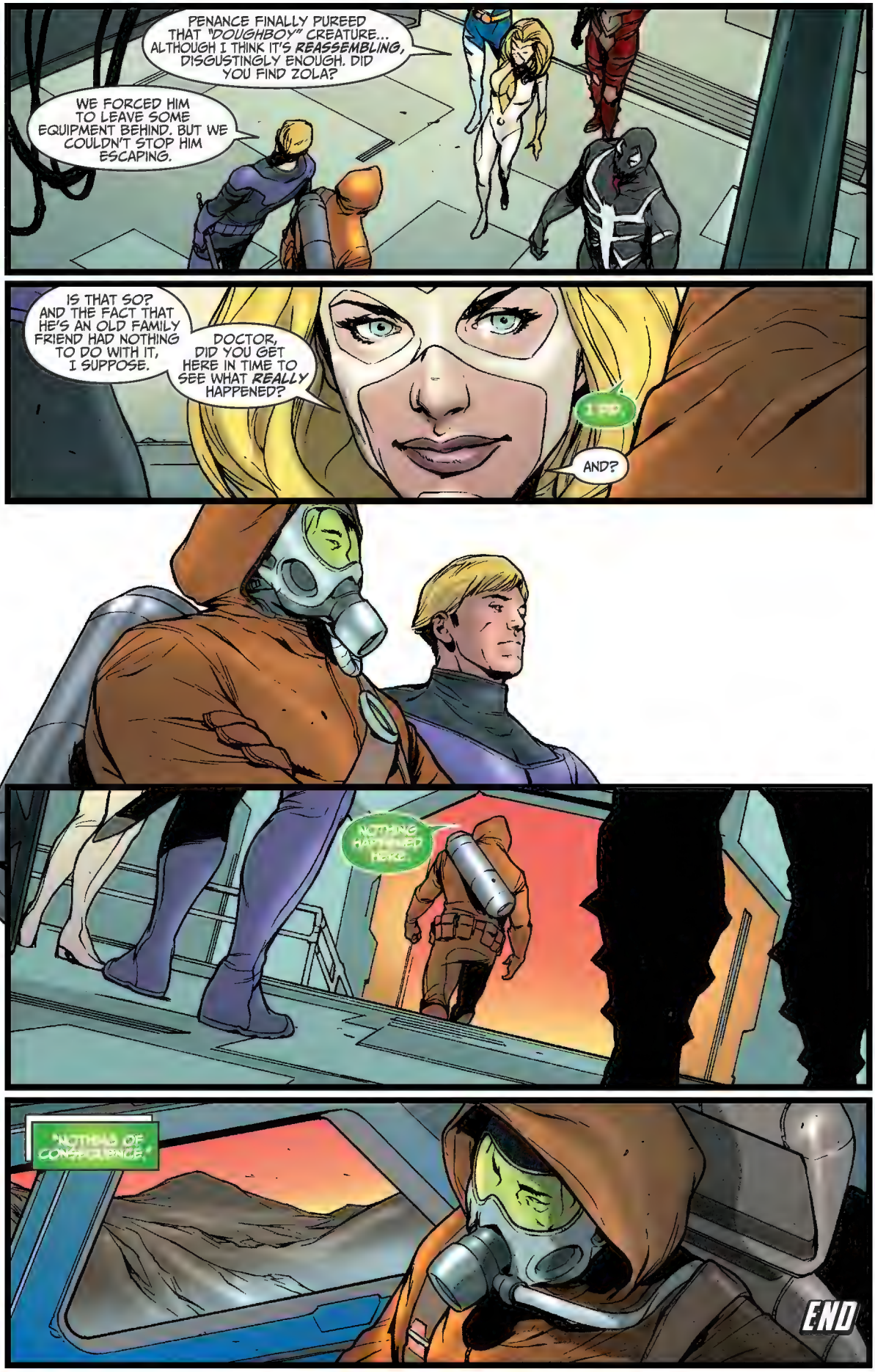
I WOULD. MY FATHER WORKED WITH ZOLA...I KNOW HOW HE DESIGNS HIS LAIRS.

YOUR POWER'S NEEDED HERE, MOONSTONE.
ALLOW ME TO FIND THE LORD OF THE MANOR.

CAREFUL, DAMN YOU! I MADE YOU MINDLESS, NOT STUPID!
THIS EQUIPMENT IS CRUCIAL TO--
ZOLA.
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY TO DIE, FOOL.
SPARE ME YOUR POSTURING, ARNIM.
YOU MUST RECOGNIZE ME. IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG.
THE STRUCKER WHELP. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WITHOUT YOUR TWIN.
AND SHE IS WITH ME NOW.
AFTER SHE DIED, I HAD MY SWORD-HILT WRAPPED IN HER SKIN...ALLOWING ME TO USE THE ENERGY POWERS THAT ONLY WORK WHEN WE'RE TOUCHING.
I'LL GET TO THE POINT, ZOLA. YOU WERE CREATING CLONES FOR HITLER DECADES BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DISCOVERED DNA.
THERE IS NO GREATER EXPERT IN THE FIELD.
TAKE THIS. RESTORE MY SISTER TO LIFE.
NOT ONLY WILL I LET YOU ESCAPE, I'LL FEED YOU INFORMATION ON THE THUNDERBOLTS. BOTH YOU AND WHATEVER MADMEN EMPLOY YOU WILL BE SAFE FROM US.

I CAN RECREATE HER BODY. BUT YOU REALIZE HER MIND, HER ESSENCE, WOULD NOT BE--
LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT.
VERY WELL, STRUCKER. WE HAVE A--
--GNNAHH!
NO!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?
I STRUCK HIM WITH A FREQUENCY THAT NOT ONLY DISRUPTS HIS OPERATING SYSTEMS, BUT ALSO PREVENTS HIS CONSCIOUSNESS FROM FLEEING THIS BODY
AND I STOPPED YOU FROM BETRAYING US.
BETRAYING--? ARE YOU *INSANE?*
THIS TEAM HAS NO LOYALTY TO YOU. EVEN SONGBIRD REFUSED TO BACK YOU AGAINST NORMAN.
FOR PITY'S SAKE, YOUR OWN *GOVERNMENT* DOESN'T WANT YOU BACK, AND STILL YOU RUN AROUND LIKE A TRAINED *DOG...*
IT DOESN'T MATTER. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THIS: THE TRIGGER TO THE SELF-DESTRUCT SYSTEM.
YOU WILL LET ZOLA ESCAPE, OR I WILL BLOW THIS PLACE TO HELL.

AND KILL YOURSELF?
I'D SOONER DIE THAN LOSE HOPE OF RESTORING MY SISTER.
AND I'VE COME TO BELIEVE NORMAN WILL NEVER DO THAT.
I WOULD LIKELY SURVIVE THIS EXPLOSION. AS YOU SAID, I OWE NO LOYALTY TO THE THUNDERBOLTS. WHY SHOULD YOUR THREAT MEAN ANYTHING TO ME?
BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE. THE VILLAGERS AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN, WHO'D BE CRUSHED. ANY INNOCENT VICTIMS ZOLA STILL HAS IN HIS DUNGEONS.
I KNOW YOU TOO WELL, DOCTOR. WHATEVER YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE DONE TO YOU...
...YOU WILL NOT LET YOUR COUNTRYMEN SUFFER.
GET OUT OF HERE, ZOLA. BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND.
AS... YOU SAY, DR. CHEN.
FAREWELL, GENTLEMEN. MISTER STRUCKER...
"...YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME SOON."
SWORDSMAN! RADIOACTIVE MAN!


PENANCE FINALLY PUREED THAT "DOUGHBOY" CREATURE... ALTHOUGH I THINK IT'S REASSEMBLING, DISGUSTINGLY ENOUGH. DID YOU FIND ZOLA?
WE FORCED HIM TO LEAVE SOME EQUIPMENT BEHIND. BUT WE COULDN'T STOP HIM ESCAPING.
IS THAT SO? AND THE FACT THAT HE'S AN OLD FAMILY FRIEND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, I SUPPOSE.
DOCTOR, DID YOU GET HERE IN TIME TO SEE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
I DO.
AND?
NOTHING HAPPENED HERE.
"NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE."
END

THUNDERBOLTS
REASON IN MADNESS
MARVEL
1
GAGE
OLIVER
VILLARRUBIA

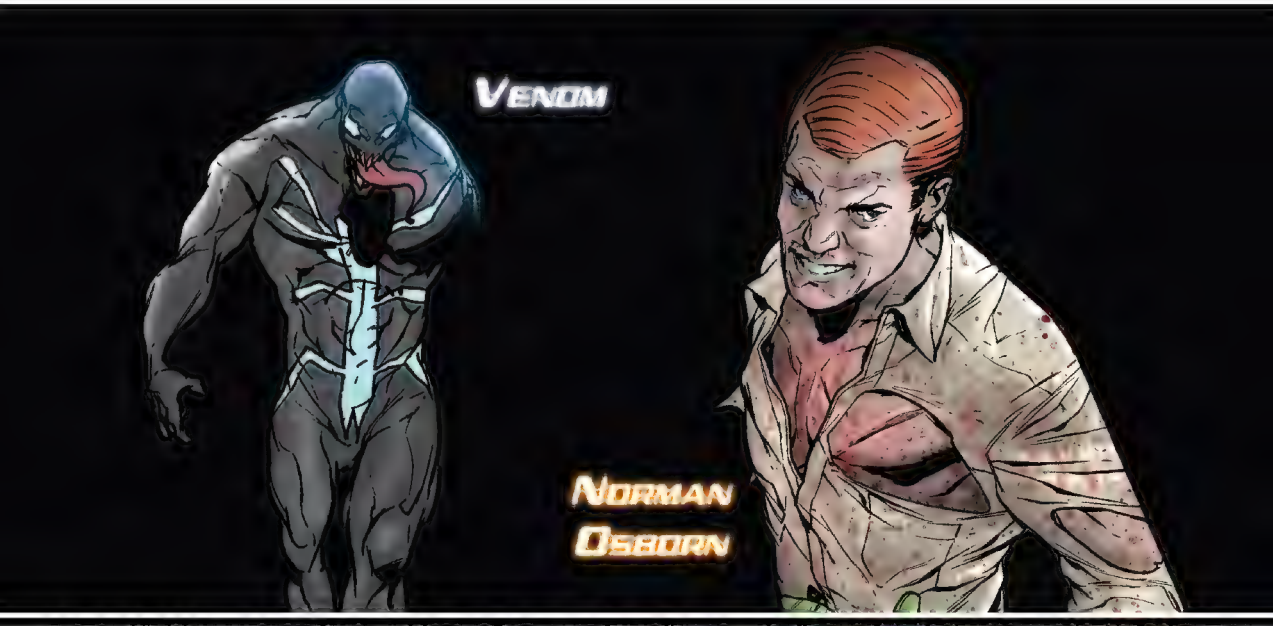
Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts--federal marshalls, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

THUNDERBOLTS

REASON IN MADNESS

When civil war split the superhuman community down the middle, the government recruited super-villains to hunt down unregistered super heroes acting in violation of the law. A new Thunderbolts team, led by Norman Osborn and including violent recruits like Mac Gargan, the former Scorpion who is now in possession of the Venom symbiote, was assembled and cast into the public spotlight.

For Mac Gargan, the Thunderbolts represent an opportunity to finally do some good. But the symbiote's darker urges are proving difficult to keep at bay...



CHRISTOS N. GAGE
Writer

BEN OLIVER
Artist

JOSE VILLARRUBIA
Color Art

RS & COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE
Letterer

MARKO DJURDJEVIC
Cover Art

MOLLY LAZER
Editor

JOE QUESADA
Editor in Chief

DAN BUCKLEY
Publisher

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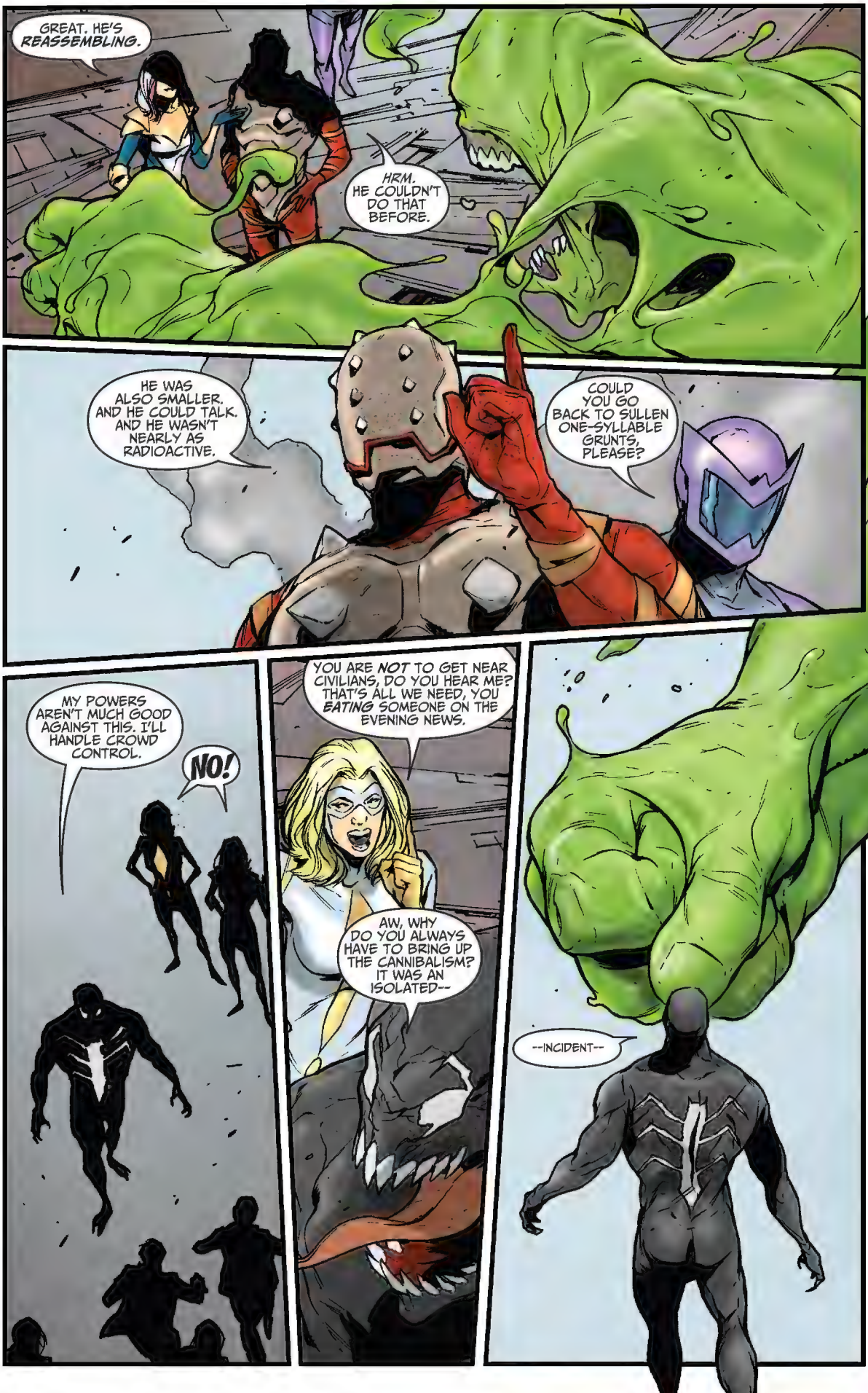
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
I.D. CONFIRMED. HIS NAME'S BIOHAZARD, HE'S A WALKING PILE OF TOXIC WASTE, AND HE'S NOT REGISTERED.
TAKE HIM DOWN WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE.
EGO BRAND
I'M ABSORBING THE RADIATION, SONGBIRD, BUT I HAVE LIMITS. UNLESS WE CONTAIN THIS CREATURE... SOON, AMERICA WILL HAVE A SISTER CITY TO CHERNOBYL.
CEASE FIRE, SWORDSMAN, YOU'RE SPRAYING NUCLEAR ACID EVERYWHERE! HOW BAD IS IT, CHEN?

VENOM! PENANCE HAS HISTORY WITH OUR TARGET. PROTECT HIM AT ALL COSTS.
HRAHH! THE HEAD CASE BETTER MAKE HIMSELF USEFUL FAST, MOONSTONE!
YOU HEARD HIM, PENANCE. ANY ADVICE?
YES.
DUCK.
SCRUNCH


GREAT. HE'S REASSEMBLING.
HRM. HE COULDN'T DO THAT BEFORE.
HE WAS ALSO SMALLER. AND HE COULD TALK. AND HE WASN'T NEARLY AS RADIOACTIVE.
COULD YOU GO BACK TO SULLEN ONE-SYLLABLE GRUNTS, PLEASE?
MY POWERS AREN'T MUCH GOOD AGAINST THIS. I'LL HANDLE CROWD CONTROL.
NO!
YOU ARE NOT TO GET NEAR CIVILIANS, DO YOU HEAR ME? THAT'S ALL WE NEED, YOU EATING SOMEONE ON THE EVENING NEWS.
AW, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BRING UP THE CANNIBALISM? IT WAS AN ISOLATED--
--INCIDENT--

KRROOM
NNN...
WELL, WELL. IF IT ISN'T MAC GARGAN.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A BAD DAY.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'M OFFENDED. YOU TELLING ME YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OLD BUDDY...
...WHIRLWIND?

DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WITHOUT THE BUCKET ON YOUR HEAD.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A MASTERS OF EVIL REUNION, AND I NEVER MUCH LIKED YOU ANYWAY. SO SHOVE OFF.
JUST HEAR ME OUT, MAC. AFTER ALL...
...I WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME.
YOU DID THIS?
ME AND SOME FRIENDS. BUSTED THAT THING OUT OF PROJECT: PEGASUS AND JACKED HIM UP A LITTLE, THEN TURNED HIM LOOSE.
ALL RIGHT. TALK.
NOT HERE. MEET ME IN DENVER. A CLOSED-DOWN BAR CALLED CLANCY'S. MIDNIGHT TOMORROW.
YEAH, THAT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM. I GOT THESE NANOBOTS IN MY BLOOD THAT'LL FRY MY BRAIN IF I LEAVE THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN WITHOUT PERMISSION.
NOT IF YOU SHUT THEM OFF.

THIS'LL DO THAT?
FOR TWO HOURS. LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HEAR MY PROPOSITION.
BETTER GET BACK TO YOUR PARTNERS BEFORE THEY MISS YOU.
HNH.
FAT CHANCE OF THAT.
THERE YOU ARE. I WAS AFRAID THEY'D ASK ME TO PULL RUBBLE OFF YOU. I DETEST MENIAL LABOR.
PENANCE DISPERSED BIOHAZARD AGAIN, AND SONGBIRD CAGED THE FRAGMENTS. EACH BECAME A MORE MANAGEABLE VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL. RATHER CUTE, AREN'T THEY?
WHERE WERE YOU? OFF BEING YOUR USUAL USELESS SELF?
WHAM

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
THE FOLLOWING EVENING.
ATTENTION INMATE. ACCESS PAST THIS POINT IS PROHIBITED. FURTHER PROGRESS WILL RESULT IN THE FIRING OF YOUR NANOCHAIN.
THANK YOU FOR VISITING THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN. PLEASE STOP BY OUR GIFT SHOP ON YOUR WAY OUT.
SHHSS

WANT A DATE, HANDSOME?
HRRR... DAAATE...
NO! YOU'RE NOT GETTING US IN TROUBLE.
JUST GONNA SEE WHAT HE WANTS. THEN WE GO HOME.
BRUNCH
SEE?

I TOLD YOU HE'D SHOW UP.

ME? YOU IDIOTS SET A TRAP FOR ME?
EASY, MAC, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. I JUST HAD TO BE SURE YOU WEREN'T GONNA TURN US IN BEFORE I TOLD YOU WHO ALL WOULD BE HERE.
THINK ABOUT IT. IF WE WANTED TO KILL YOU, MR. HYDE COULDA PUT POISON IN THAT SYRINGE--
--INSTEAD OF DIGGING UP THE JESTER'S CORPSE SO HE COULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO BLOCK THE NANOBOTS YOUR BOSSES LEFT IN IT.
I DIDN'T MIND. I FIND THE SMELL OF PUTREFACTION RATHER INTOXICATING.
LOOK, MATE, YOU KNOW US. WE'VE ALL WORKED WITH YOU BEFORE.
JUST RELAX, HAVE A BEER AND HEAR US OUT. ALL RIGHT?
...
EGO
HAVEN'T HAD A BEER IN THREE MONTHS. THUNDERBOLTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO DRINK. NOT ME, ANYWAY.
ALL RIGHT, BOOMERANG. YOU BOUGHT YOURSELF FIVE MINUTES.

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO HAVE A BEER WHENEVER YOU WANT? LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN ANY TIME YOU FANCY A STROLL?
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO TURN THE NANOBOTS OFF PERMANENTLY?
STREWTH! UH, NO OFFENSE, MAC, BUT--
--WELL, YOUR COAT'S MOVING, AND... WET.
IT'S ACTUALLY MY SYMBIOTE. IT CAN LOOK LIKE PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING.
YOU GET USED TO IT.
YOU COULD REALLY DO IT? TURN 'EM OFF FOR GOOD?
EASILY. YOU'D BE FREE TO DO AS YOU PLEASE.
KILL THOSE OTHER PUNKS, AND JOIN UP WITH PARTNERS WHO TREAT YOU LIKE A MAN, NOT SOME RABID DOG.
TIGER SHARK SPEAKS FOR ALL OF US. OR, IF YOU WANT TO STAY A THUNDERBOLT FOR THE CASH, I CAN SEE THAT. BUT YOU'D BE ABLE TO GO OFF THE RESERVATION ONCE IN A WHILE.
SATISFY THE...NEEDS...THAT COME WITH YOUR SHADOW SIDE.
ALL WE ASK...
...IS ONE SMALL FAVOR.

YEAH? SUPPOSE I THINK WHAT THEY'RE PAYING ME IS WORTH TAKING SOME CRAP FOR. SUPPOSE I DON'T WANNA RISK BLOWING IT.
WELL, THAT'D BE REALLY UNFORTUNATE. 'CAUSE THEN THIS FILE MIGHT FIND ITS WAY ONTO THE WRONG PERSON'S DESK.
DATES BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE PLAIN OLD MAC GARGAN, PRIVATE EYE. WORKING DIVORCE CASES, LAWSUITS... AND CORPORATE ESPIONAGE.
REMEMBER? OBADIAH STANE HIRED YOU TO STEAL NORMAN OSBORN'S PLANS FOR MILITARY ROBOTICS. COST OSBORN A FAT GOVERNMENT CONTRACT.
WAIT-- OSBORN'S YOUR BOSS NOW, ISN'T HE? HUH. HOPE HE'S THE FORGIVING TYPE.
YOU SON OF A--
AH, C'MON NOW, MATE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT.
DON'T LOOK AT THE STICK, LOOK AT THE CARROT. NO REASON IN THE WORLD THIS SHOULDN'T WORK OUT BRILLIANTLY FOR ALL OF US.
... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK.

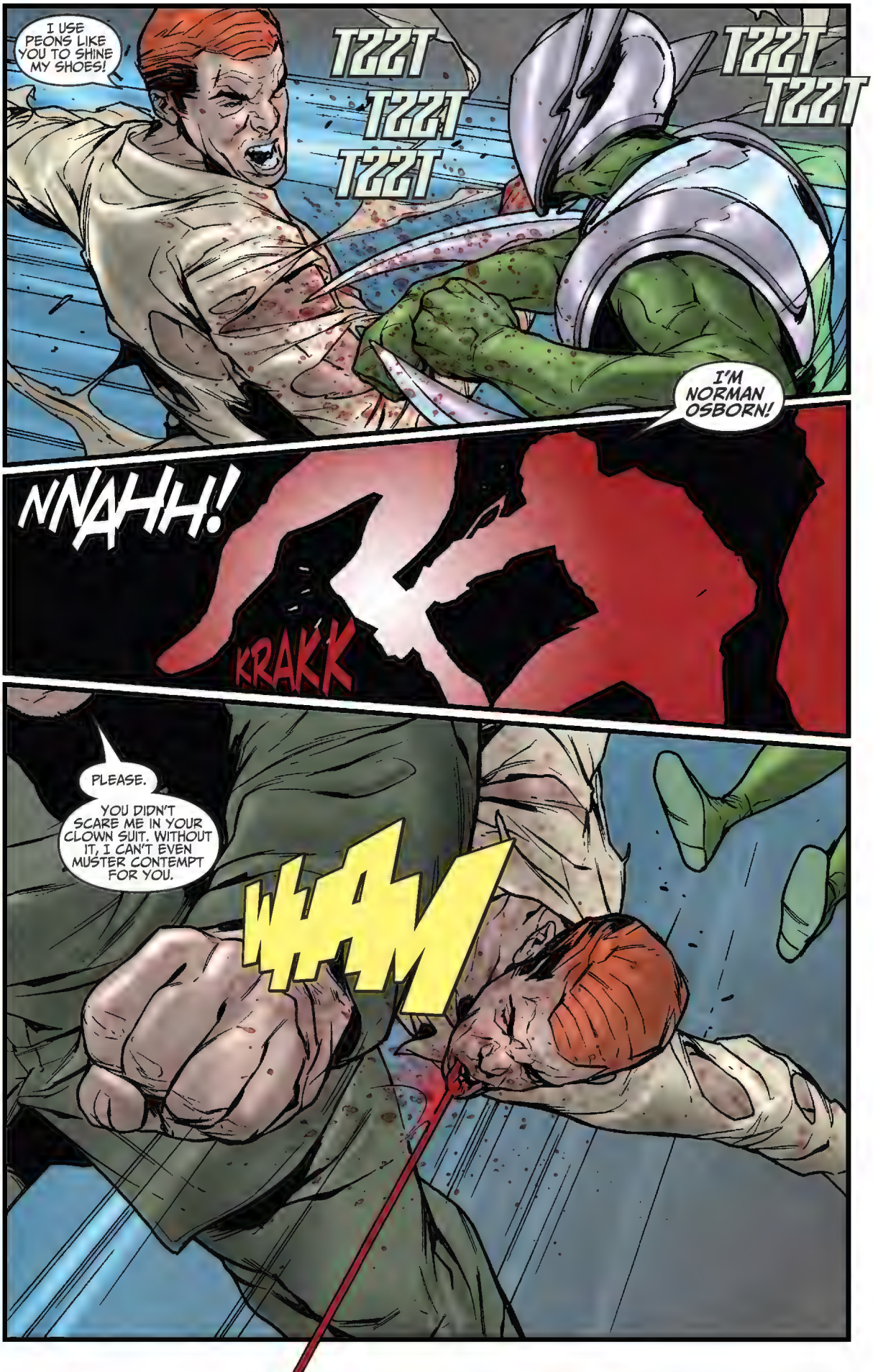
NORMAN OSBORN'S OFFICE. THE NEXT DAY.
WHAT IS IT NOW? CAN'T YOU GO TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITHOUT DEVOURING SOMEONE?
AGAIN WITH THE EATING.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. PRIVATELY.
MAKE IT FAST. OUR SUPPORT STAFF IS TRYING TO UNIONIZE AND I'M DECIDING HOW BADLY TO HURT THEM.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LONG TIME, NORMAN. SINCE WE BOTH WORE GREEN.
WHEN I SAY PRIVATE, I MEAN *PRIVATE.*
THERE. ALL CAMERAS, BUGS AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES ARE OFF.
IF YOU DO ANYTHING IDIOTIC, I AM STILL FULLY CAPABLE OF TURNING YOU INTO A TWITCHING MASS ON THE CARPET.
NOW, I TRUST WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO SAY IS WORTH ALL THE DRAMA.

YOU'RE A MURDERER. YOU DROPPED A DAILY BUGLE REPORTER FROM FIFTY STORIES UP. SHE BURST LIKE A MELON.
NOW, MAC, THAT'S NOT VERY NICE. YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL I WAS INSANE WHEN THAT HAPPENED.
INSANE. RIGHT. Y'KNOW WHO'S INSANE? THAT BIOHAZARD GUY.
ONLY I GET THE FEELING HE'LL END UP IN A CELL, NOT BEHIND A MAHOGANY DESK.
BURL WOOD, ACTUALLY. IS THERE A POINT TO THIS?
YOU WOULDN'T BE YOU WITHOUT HAVING DIRT ON POWERFUL PEOPLE. I FIGURE YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH.
I KNOW A GUY. HAS SOMETHING ON A CONGRESSMAN WHO SITS ON THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.
HE WANTS HALF A MIL. I WANT A WEEK'S VACATION, ALL EXPENSES PAID, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
MAC.
WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?
I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR FRIEND. THEN WE'LL SEE.
I'LL SET IT UP.

THAT NIGHT.
...DON'T SEE WHY THIS HAS TO BE DONE HERE.
IT'S PRIVATE.
PRIVATE I UNDERSTAND. BUT WHY THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE INSTEAD OF, OH, I DON'T KNOW--A FIVE STAR HOTEL ROOM?
OR, REALLY, ANY PLACE THAT DOESN'T SMELL LIKE A FRAT HOUSE BASEMENT.
HELLO, OSBORN.
OH, MAC. REALLY.
YOU LET THESE FOUR MANIPULATE YOU?

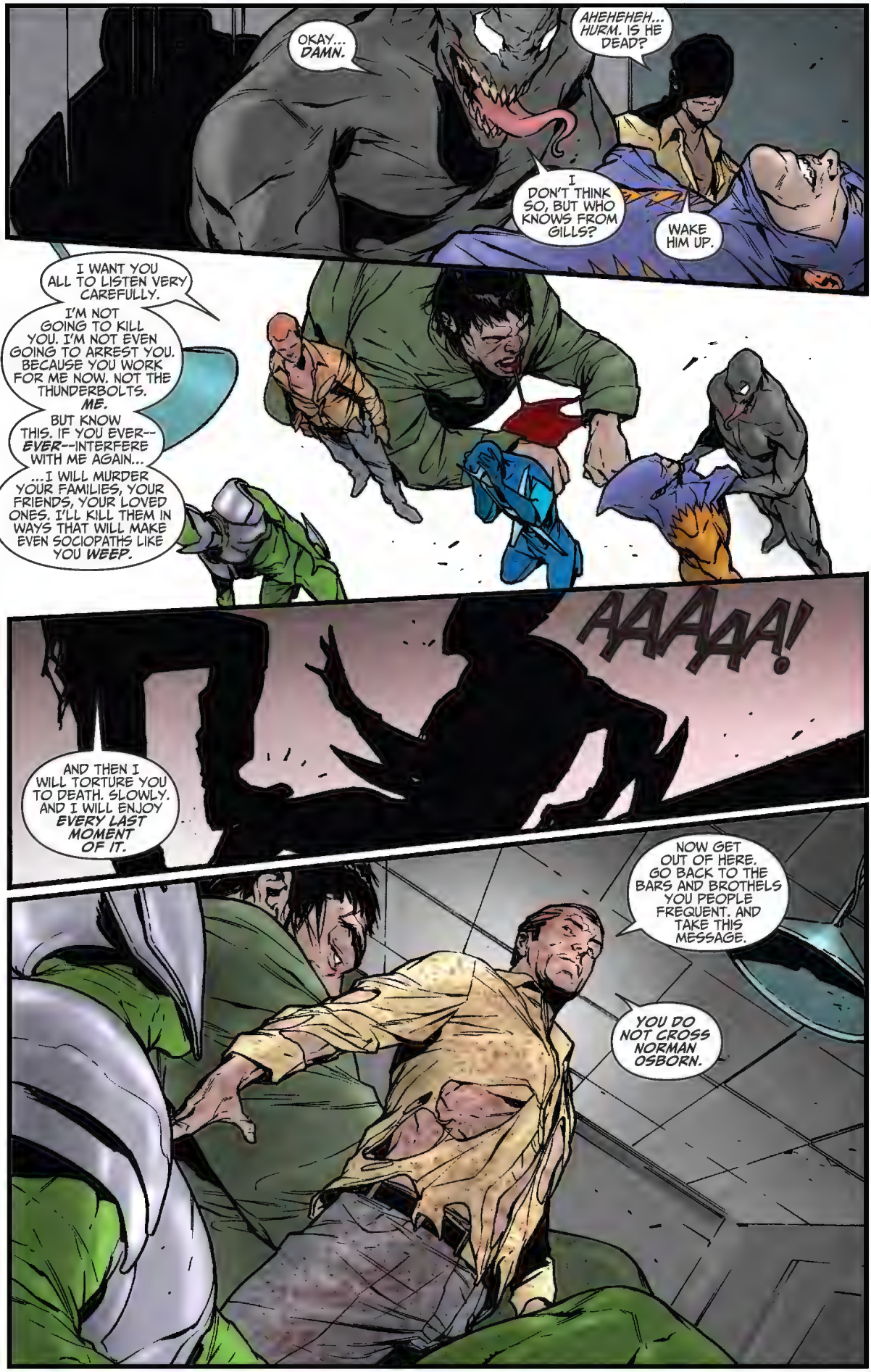
SHUT UP, OSBORN. HE'S PLAYING IT SMART. NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU.
YOU SIGNED ON TO RUN THE THUNDERBOLTS. GOT A FAT PAYCHECK AND A "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARD. GOOD FOR YOU.
ALL WE WANT'S A TASTE OF THE PIE.
SEE, YOU'RE GONNA PROTECT US FROM GETTING PINCHED... OR, IF WE DO GET BUSTED, FROM EVER SEEING THE INSIDE OF A CELL.
YOU'RE GONNA GIVE US THE CODES WE NEED TO HACK YOUR FILES. YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS WON'T MISS A FEW MILLION.
BUT WE ALSO WANT YOUR PERSONAL STUFF--ALL THE DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS THAT'LL RUIN YOU IF THEY GET OUT. THAT'S OUR INSURANCE.
AND IF I FIND THESE TERMS UNACCEPTABLE?
YOU EAT SUSHI, RIGHT? ALL YOU RICH GUYS DO.
TURNS OUT THERE ARE FISH WHO LIKE TO EAT PEOPLE RAW, TOO.
VERY WELL, GENTLEMEN. I'M A BUSINESSMAN. I CAN APPRECIATE A TOUGH NEGOTIATION.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS DATA STICK CONTAINS EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
IT BETTER.
REALLY, I'M IMPRESSED. THIS IS QUITE A FARSIGHTED PLAN FOR THE LIKES OF YOU. BUT YOU MADE THE MISTAKE A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MAKING LATELY.
YOU THOUGHT THE COSTUME MADE THE MAN.
I CAN PUT BOMBS IN OTHER THINGS BESIDES PUMPKINS, YOU KNOW.

HAAA HA HA HA
BWA-OOOM
SON OF A--
HE'S RIGHT. YOU UNDERESTIMATED US BOTH. STILL THINK OF ME AS THE SCORPION.
NO SCORPION HERE, PUNK. JUST VENOM.
LET'S PLAY "OIL SPILL."
HGKK -- !
YOU STUPID, SUICIDAL PSYCHO! YOU WANNA DIE? FINE!
AHEHEHEH. YOU REALLY THINK I'M AFRAID OF YOU?
I SURVIVED BEING IMPALED.


I USE PEONS LIKE YOU TO SHINE MY SHOES!
TZZT TZZT TZZT
TZZT TZZT
I'M NORMAN OSBORN!
NNAHH!
KRAKK
PLEASE.
YOU DIDN'T SCARE ME IN YOUR CLOWN SUIT. WITHOUT IT, I CAN'T EVEN MUSTER CONTEMPT FOR YOU.
WHAM

WHUD
HURRGH!
NOT... CLOWN.
GOBLIN.
GOBLIN.
FWOOM

GOBLIN!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HAAA!
KA-WHAMMM


OKAY... DAMN.
AHEHEHEH... HURM. IS HE DEAD?
I DON'T THINK SO, BUT WHO KNOWS FROM GILLS?
WAKE HIM UP.
I WANT YOU ALL TO LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.
I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU. I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO ARREST YOU. BECAUSE YOU WORK FOR ME NOW. NOT THE THUNDERBOLTS. ME.
BUT KNOW THIS. IF YOU EVER-- EVER--INTERFERE WITH ME AGAIN...
...I WILL MURDER YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR LOVED ONES. I'LL KILL THEM IN WAYS THAT WILL MAKE EVEN SOCIOPATHS LIKE YOU WEEP.
AAAAAA!
AND THEN I WILL TORTURE YOU TO DEATH. SLOWLY. AND I WILL ENJOY EVERY LAST MOMENT OF IT.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE. GO BACK TO THE BARS AND BROTHELS YOU PEOPLE FREQUENT. AND TAKE THIS MESSAGE.
YOU DO NOT CROSS NORMAN OSBORN.

UH, YOU MIGHT WANNA SEE A DOCTOR.
THIS? IT'LL BE HEALED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS TOMORROW.
OH. SO... WE'RE COOL, RIGHT? I MEAN, THAT CASE I WORKED FOR STANE BACK IN THE DAY--
THAT? WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. BESIDES, YOU DID ME A FAVOR. LOSING THAT CONTRACT PUSHED ME INTO RESEARCHING BIOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS, AND WE SEE WHERE THAT LED.
I AM CURIOUS, THOUGH... WHY TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR TRAP? I KNOW YOU RESENT THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN TREATED.
THOSE GUYS DON'T LIKE ME ANY MORE THAN YOU OR THE REST OF THE THUNDERBOLTS. I WAS JUST MAKING THE SMART PLAY.
THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.
AND BEING A THUNDERBOLT OFFERS ME A HELL OF A LOT MORE POSSIBILITIES THAN THAT.
I MUST SAY, MAC, YOU'VE SHOWN ME SOMETHING TONIGHT.
IN LIGHT OF THAT, I'M GRANTING YOUR REQUEST. ONCE A MONTH, FOR 24 HOURS, I WILL SHUT OFF YOUR NANOCHAIN AND LET YOU ENJOY YOURSELF.
FAIR ENOUGH.
NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME.
TRY NOT TO KILL ANYONE WHO'LL BE MISSED.
THE END

SECRET INVASION™
THUNDERBOLTS®
MARVEL®
122
.com
GAGE
BLANCO
MARTIN
TAN 08
protobunker
.com

Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts—federal marshals, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

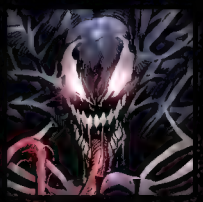
THUNDERBOLTS

NORMAN OSBORN

MOONSTONE

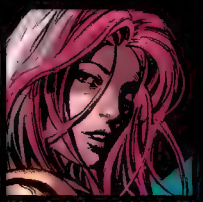
PENANCE

RADIOACTIVE MAN


VENOM

SWORDSMAN

BULLSEYE


SONGBIRD

After months of boiling tempers (and secret mental manipulation), the various members of the Thunderbolts – including their "handler" Norman Osborn – erupted into fully costumed battle.

Attempting to eliminate a thorn in her side, Moonstone attacked the visiting psychologist Doc Samson, but was instead stopped by Samson's patient, Penance.

A rampaging Osborn, garbed as the Green Goblin, engaged in a vicious fight with Songbird, who ultimately defeated him.

Suddenly recovered from his nanomechanical surgery, Bullseye quickly killed the telepaths known as Caprice, Mindwave, Mirage and Bluestreak, who had secretly manipulated the Thunderbolts into this orgy of violence.

When the smoke cleared, Penance, who had made great strides in dealing with the guilt he felt for the deaths in Stamford, Connecticut – told Samson that he would continue to redeem himself by keeping watch over Thunderbolt Mountain. Samson then left, carrying with him video evidence of Osborn's rampage.

In exchange for keeping Osborn's transgressions secret, Songbird demanded that her boss make her the new team leader. Osborn agreed, and then revealed that "someone" had told Bullseye that Songbird had earlier lied to him, in an attempt to get him killed.

Now, with their bodies healed but their emotional wounds still fresh, the Thunderbolts continue their mission of detaining unregistered superhumans...

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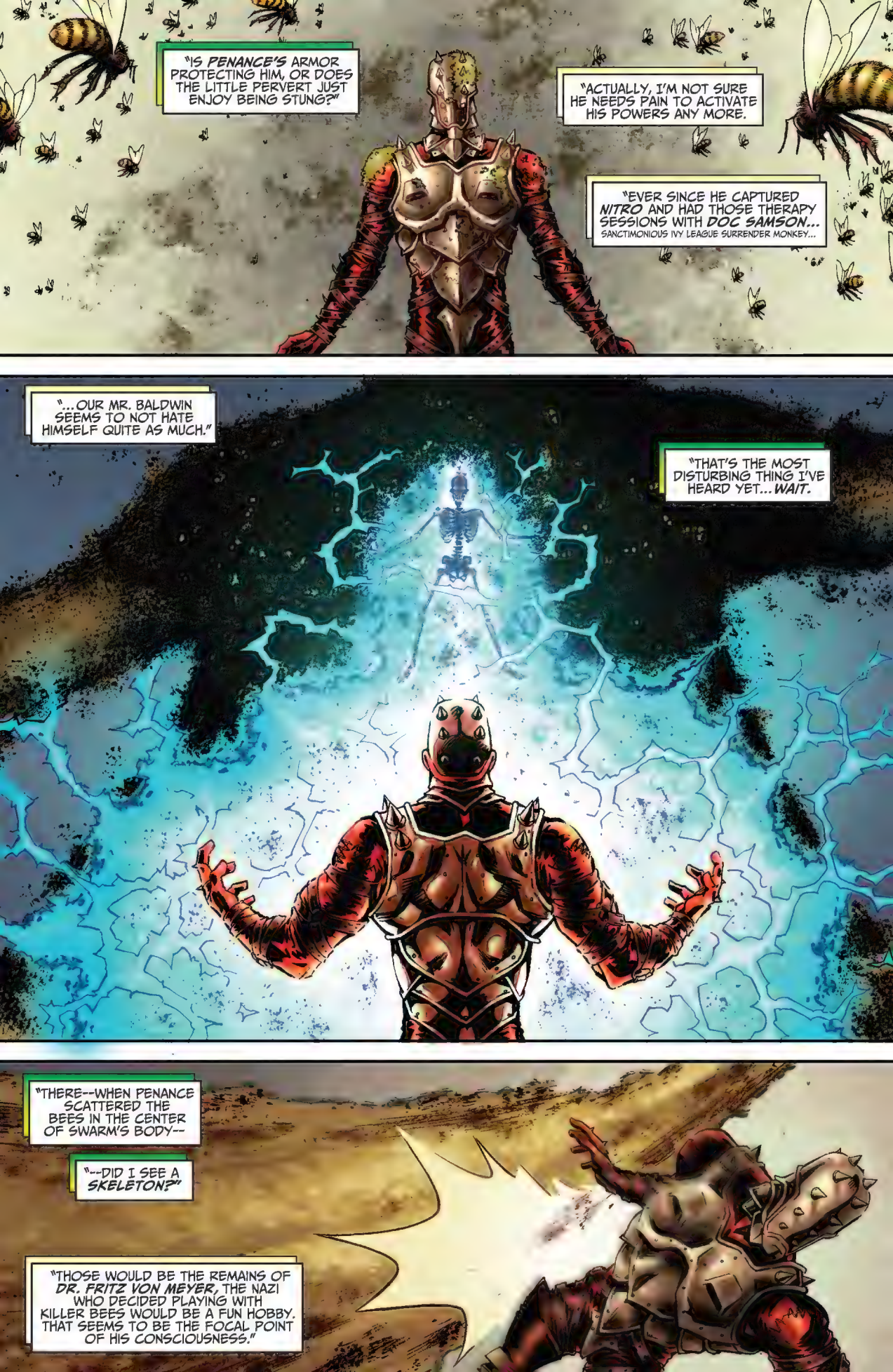
DENVER, COLORADO.
ZZZWARMM
NOW THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.
GRAND AVE

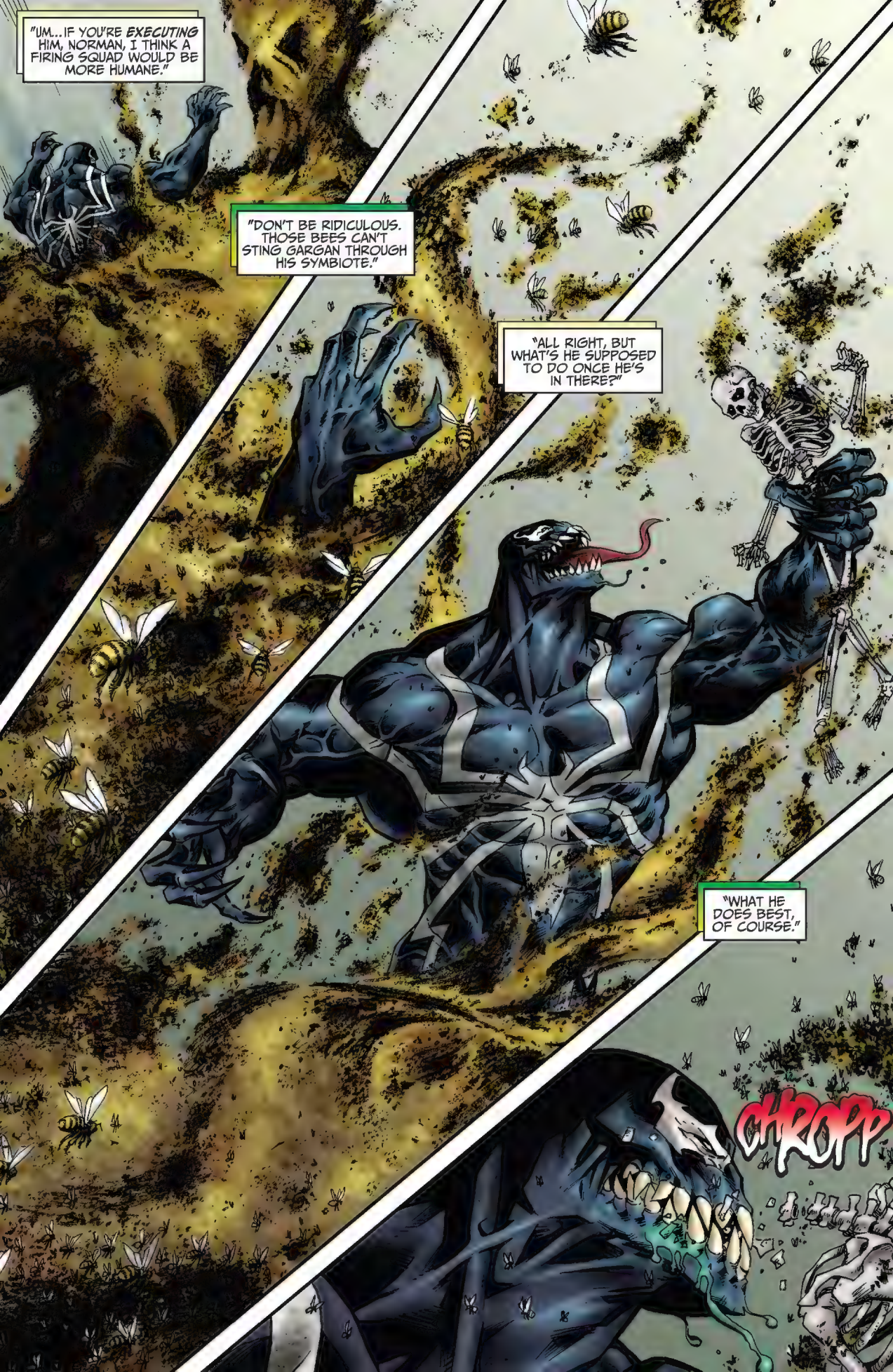
ON BOARD THE ZEUS, THE THUNDERBOLTS' MOBILE ASSAULT CRAFT.
MOONSTONE! ARE WE STILL ON DIAL-UP? I'D PREFER AN I.D. ON OUR TARGET SOMETIME THIS FISCAL YEAR.
TAKE YOUR PILLS, NORMAN, DATA'S UPLOADING NOW...OH, YOU'LL LOVE THIS.
HE'S CALLED SWARM. A ONETIME NAZI SCIENTIST WHOSE BODY IS COMPOSED OF KILLER BEES HE CONTROLS.
APPARENTLY THERE'S BEEN A RECRUITMENT DRIVE, THOUGH, BECAUSE HE LOOKS TWENTY TIMES AS BIG AS HE SHOULD BE.
AND HERE I THOUGHT THE BEES WERE DYING OFF. MORE TREE-HUGGING HYPERBOLE FROM AL GORE, I SUPPOSE.
WELL, BULLSEYE, IT APPEARS YOUR TRIUMPHANT RETURN WILL HAVE TO WAIT. I DOUBT EVEN YOU CAN KILL TWO BILLION BEES ONE BY ONE.
WON'T KNOW UNTIL I TRY.
CHARMING, BUT NO. PILOT, CUE UP THE "FACES OF DEATH" DVDS TO KEEP OUR FRIEND OCCUPIED.
ALL RIGHT. I LEFT A MASSAGE CHAIR, A WET BAR AND A SECRETARY WILLING TO DRESS UP IN A BLONDE WIG AND KNEE-HIGH BOOTS SO I COULD EVALUATE MY TEAM IN THE FIELD.
SEE IF BEING CONTROLLED BY THOSE TELEPATHS LEFT ANY MARKS ON THEM. YOU'RE THE PSYCHIATRIST. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BULLSEYE'S CRAZY.
THANK YOU, I HADN'T WORKED THAT OUT. NEXT?

"RADIOACTIVE MAN SHOULD BE OUR BEST WEAPON. SWARM'S BEEN BEATEN BY BOTH NUCLEAR AND ELECTRICAL CHARGES BEFORE.
"THEY DISRUPTED HIS PSYCHIC LINK TO THE BEES. DR. CHEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPLICATE THAT EFFECT.
"OF COURSE, SWARM WAS MUCH SMALLER THEN, WHICH MAY BE WHY IT'S NOT WORKING NOW. BUT EVER SINCE DR. CHEN FOUND OUT CHINA DOESN'T WANT HIM BACK...
DDIIIEE
"...HE'S BEEN DEPRESSED. APATHETIC. PERHAPS HE'S JUST NOT TRYING VERY HARD."
"I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. AND IF A FACEFUL OF BEES FAILS TO MOTIVATE HIM, I'M NOT VERY HOPEFUL ABOUT PHARMACEUTICALS.
"WHAT ABOUT THE SWORDSMAN? WAS HIS TURNING AGAINST US SOLELY DUE TO MENTAL MANIPULATION, OR IS IT SOMETHING HE'D DO ON HIS OWN?"
"HARD TO SAY. HE'S NOT THE MOST STABLE INDIVIDUAL.THIS IS A MAN WHOSE PRIME MOTIVE FOR WORKING WITH US IS YOUR PROMISE TO CLONE HIS DEAD SISTER, FOR WHOM HE HAS A...
"...WELL, LET'S BE CHARITABLE AND CALL IT AN UNUSUALLY INTENSE ATTACHMENT. HE HAS NO LOYALTY TO US OR OUR MISSION.
"NOR HAS HE MADE IT A SECRET THAT HE THINKS HE'S BETTER THAN THE REST OF US. HE'S ABOUT AS FAR FROM A TEAM PLAYER AS YOU CAN GET.
"BUT AS LONG AS HE NEEDS YOU TO GET HIS SISTER BACK, HE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY."
"GOOD. UNFORTUNATELY, UNLESS HIS ARMOR IS EQUIPPED WITH WINDSHIELD WIPERS, HE'S CURRENTLY BLIND AS A BAT. LET'S MOVE ON."

SONGBIRD! BEES COMMUNICATE VIA SONIC VIBRATION. SEE IF YOU CAN DISRUPT THAT.
UNBELIEVABLE. AFTER ALL THE YEARS WE'VE BEEN TEAMMATES, YOU STILL CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO UNDERSTAND HOW MY POWERS WORK.
ONCE MORE FOR THE REMEDIAL CLASS: I LOST MY SONIC SCREAM AGES AGO. NOW I CREATE CONSTRUCTS OUT OF SOLID SOUND.
AND I GIVE THE ORDERS NOW, NOT YOU. SO SHUT UP.
SHE'S BECOME DOWNRIGHT DISAGREEABLE LATELY.
MM. HOSTILE AND DEFIANT, EVER SINCE HER MOTHER DIED.
SHE THINKS ONE OR BOTH OF US KILLED HER, YOU KNOW.
DID YOU?
DID YOU?
WELL.


"IS PENANCE'S ARMOR PROTECTING HIM, OR DOES THE LITTLE PERVERT JUST ENJOY BEING STUNG?"
"ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE HE NEEDS PAIN TO ACTIVATE HIS POWERS ANY MORE.
"EVER SINCE HE CAPTURED NITRO AND HAD THOSE THERAPY SESSIONS WITH DOC SAMSON...
SANCTIMONIOUS IVY LEAGUE SURRENDER MONKEY...
"...OUR MR. BALDWIN SEEMS TO NOT HATE HIMSELF QUITE AS MUCH."
"THAT'S THE MOST DISTURBING THING I'VE HEARD YET... WAIT.
"THERE--WHEN PENANCE SCATTERED THE BEES IN THE CENTER OF SWARM'S BODY--
"--DID I SEE A SKELETON?"
"THOSE WOULD BE THE REMAINS OF DR. FRITZ VON MEYER, THE NAZI WHO DECIDED PLAYING WITH KILLER BEES WOULD BE A FUN HOBBY. THAT SEEMS TO BE THE FOCAL POINT OF HIS CONSCIOUSNESS."

YOU DON'T SAY.
PILOT, RELEASE VENOM, PLEASE.
UH, NORMAN, I'D STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST THAT. HIS POWERS AREN'T MUCH GOOD AGAINST SWARM, AND, WELL--
--FRANKLY, HIS MENTAL STATE HAS DETERIORATED ALARMINGLY.
NONSENSE. I'VE KNOWN MAC GARGAN FOR YEARS. WE HAVE AN... UNDERSTANDING.
NO, SHE'S RIGHT, NORMAN. IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP MY SYMBIOTE UNDER CONTROL.
I... WANT TO HURT PEOPLE... HEAR THE WARM, WET SOUNDS... EAT THEM BITE DOWN ON THEIR FLESH CHEW ON THE BONES--
GOOD.


"UM...IF YOU'RE EXECUTING HIM, NORMAN, I THINK A FIRING SQUAD WOULD BE MORE HUMANE."
"DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THOSE BEES CAN'T STING GARGAN THROUGH HIS SYMBIOTE."
"ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT'S HE SUPPOSED TO DO ONCE HE'S IN THERE?"
"WHAT HE DOES BEST, OF COURSE."
CHOPP

THERE GO THE BEES, BACK TO... WHEREVER BEES GO. YOU THINK SWARM'S DEAD?
CHOPP
CRNCH
RNCH
UNLIKELY. IT'S HARD TO KILL A DISEMBODIED INTELLIGENCE. BUT BEING DIGESTED SEEMS TO HAVE AT LEAST INCONVENIENCED HIM.
NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN THIS BATTLE.
I DON'T LIKE BUGS. WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? WE WON.
WHAT'S MY PROBLEM?
WE FOUGHT LIKE A BUNCH OF DRUNKEN FRAT BOYS!
THOSE OF MY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PSYCHOTIC ARE ACTING LIKE SPOILED POP STARS.
OUR JOB IS TO TAKE DOWN UNREGISTERED SUPER-HUMANS. WHY DO YOU THINK WE HAVEN'T BEEN ALLOWED TO GO AFTER DAREDEVIL? OR LUKE CAGE?
PERHAPS BECAUSE WE CAN'T STOP A NAZI MADE OF BEES WITHOUT EATING HIM, WHILE YOU HIDE LIKE A SHRIEKING SCHOOLGIRL BECAUSE YOU "DON'T LIKE BUGS"!!
LISTEN TO YOU, MR. JUDGMENTAL. YOU WANT TO HEAR MY FINAL PSYCH PROFILE?
OSBORN, NORMAN. BIPOLAR, MEGALOMANIACAL SADIST, YET POSSESSED OF IMPRESSIVE EXECUTIVE SKILLS. TRUE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AS YET UNDETERMINED.
COULD BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN IN THE WORLD...OR FULLY DEGENERATE INTO A CACKLING MANIAC. IT'S COMPLETELY UP TO HIM.
IF HE KEEPS EXPECTING A TEAM OF CRIMINALS AND MADMEN TO PERFORM LIKE A WELL-TRAINED MILITARY UNIT, I KNOW WHERE MY MONEY IS.
I THINK I'LL GO UPDATE MY RESUME.

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN. SEVERAL DAYS LATER.
NORMAN, WE HAVE A SITUATION.
AND WHY SHOULD I DEAL WITH IT, RATHER THAN ONE OF THE COUNTLESS DRONES WE PAY TO WALK AROUND HERE AIMLESSLY?
TRUST ME. YOU'LL WANT TO SEE THIS YOURSELF.
BACK, DAMN YOU! THE NEXT PEASANT WHO TAKES ONE STEP IN THIS DIRECTION WILL BE CUT IN HALF!
ZZAKK
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOU SO MUCH AS BREATHES ON--
OH, PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THE SWORDSMAN'S GONE ALL "FOURTH REICH" ON US AGAIN.
NOT EXACTLY.
---MY SISTER.

SHE JUST *SHOWED UP* ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO. NORMAN, ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
NO.
BUT I'D DAMN WELL LIKE TO KNOW WHO IS.
ANDREAS, THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS GOING ON.
I REALIZE I'VE PLEDGED TO RESURRECT YOUR SISTER, BUT THIS *ISN'T* MY DOING.
I KNOW. I GREW TIRED OF YOUR ENDLESS DELAYS AND EXCUSES, SO I EMPLOYED AN OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR TO DO THE JOB.
YOU *WHAT?* WHO--
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THIS IS WHAT YOU *PROMISED* ME. MY SOLE REASON FOR AGREEING TO JOIN YOUR GROUP OF LUNATICS.
ARE YOU GOING BACK ON YOUR WORD NOW?
DO YOU PLAN TO RENEGE ON YOUR PROMISES TO *ALL* OF US?
I'LL WANT TO RUN SOME TESTS.

THUNDERBOLTS MEDICAL CENTER.
WELL, WE'VE SCANNED HER WITH THE MOST SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT KNOWN TO MAN. AND SHE'S PRECISELY WHAT SHE SEEMS TO BE.
AN EXACT GENETIC DUPLICATE OF ANDREA STRUCKER.
HER BRAIN PATTERNS ARE ALSO A PERFECT MATCH TO THE ONES WE HAD ON FILE.
AND YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF HOW YOU GOT HERE, YOUNG LADY?
NO. IT'S AS IF I WOKE UP ON THE ROAD LEADING TO YOUR MOUNTAIN.
ANDREAS, THIS HAS ALL BEEN RATHER TAXING. I'D LIKE TO LIE DOWN NOW.
OF COURSE. YOU'LL STAY IN MY QUARTERS.
SHE'S GOING NOWHERE BUT QUARANTINE UNDER ARMED GUARD UNTIL I CAN DETERMINE WHAT SHE IS AND WHERE SHE CAME FROM.
YOUR MACHINES TOLD YOU WHAT SHE IS--MY SISTER. A STRUCKER. SHE WILL NOT BE TREATED LIKE SOME COMMON CRIMINAL.
IF YOU TRY, I WILL FIGHT YOU ALL TO THE DEATH.
CALM YOURSELF, OSBORN. YOU FEAR THAT, NOW THAT I HAVE MY SISTER, I WILL NO LONGER FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS.
BUT MY CONTRACT WITH YOU IS NEARLY UP. I'LL SERVE OUT MY TERM.
I'D PREFER NOT TO BE A FUGITIVE WHEN ANDREA AND I START OUR NEW LIFE.
FINE. BUT I'M POSTING GUARDS OUTSIDE YOUR QUARTERS; THAT'S NON-NEGOTIABLE. AND I WANT TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE AS SOON AS SHE'S SITUATED.
VERY WELL. COME ALONG, ANDREA. THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE EXPOSED TO THIS...PERSON ANY LONGER.

YOU'RE GIVING HIM A LOT OF ROPE.
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW. BUT I CAN'T AFFORD OPEN REBELLION SO SOON AFTER THE LAST INCIDENT...AND HE MEANT EVERY WORD HE SAID.
ARNIM ZOLA
YOU DO REALIZE WHO'S BEHIND THIS? I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON WHEN *ARNIM ZOLA* ESCAPED US.
SWORDSMAN CONVENIENTLY FAILS TO APPREHEND A CRIMINAL GENETICIST, AND A FEW WEEKS LATER, A CLONE OF HIS SISTER SHOWS UP? EVEN VENOM COULD DO THE MATH.
RADIOACTIVE MAN WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED. I'LL QUESTION HIM.
YES, DO THAT. BUT I WONDER... CLONING A SUPERHUMAN, THEN AGING HER TO ADULTHOOD IN A MATTER OF WEEKS? EVEN FOR ZOLA, THAT'S FAST.
NOT THAT IT MAKES MUCH DIFFERENCE. IF I CAN'T HOLD HIS SISTER OVER HIM, SWORDSMAN IS TOO MUCH OF A LOOSE CANNON TO PUT UP WITH.
WE COULD KICK THEM OUT.
SHE GOES NOWHERE UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS. AND THE ONLY "*EARLY TERMINATION*" CLAUSE IN THE CONTRACT THE SWORDSMAN SIGNED IS *DEATH*.
WHICH MAY BE A FINE IDEA. BUT I'LL NEED TO MOVE IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T UNDERMINE MY AUTHORITY WITH THE REST OF THE TEAM.
I'VE PROMISED THEM ALL SOMETHING. THEY HAVE TO BELIEVE I'LL DELIVER. I NEED A *REASON* BEFORE I TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE STRUCKERS.
OF COURSE, GIVEN WHO THEY ARE...I DON'T IMAGINE I'LL HAVE TO WAIT VERY LONG.

THE SWORDSMAN'S QUARTERS.
THE BED IS YOURS, OF COURSE. I'LL HAVE A COT BROUGHT IN FOR MYSELF.
THAT'LL SURPRISE THEM. THEY DON'T THINK I'VE HEARD THE VILE THINGS THEY SAY ABOUT WHY I WANTED YOU BACK.
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR LOVE. THE PURITY. THE... INTENSITY.
HOW COULD THEY? THEY'RE PEONS.
ESPECIALLY THAT NORMAN OSBORN. NOUVEAU-RICHE BRUTE.
BRUSH MY HAIR? IT ALWAYS HELPS ME FALL ASLEEP.
OF COURSE, ANDREA.
BUT REALLY, ANDREAS ...TO SEE MY BROTHER BOWING AND SCRAPING TO A LOUT LIKE THAT? IT HURTS ME.
QUITE FRANKLY, I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
I ONLY AGREED TO WORK WITH HIM IN ORDER TO GET YOU BACK.
AND NOW I'M BACK, ANDREAS.
YES.
YES, YOU ARE.

NORMAN OSBORN'S OFFICE.
I'M NOT AN IDIOT, SWORDSMAN. YOUR "OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR" IS ARNIM ZOLA. YOU LET A CRIMINAL, A MURDERER GO FREE TO SERVE YOUR OWN PURPOSES.
YOU'RE A MURDERER. MOST OF US ON THIS TEAM ARE. AND YET WE'RE FREE, MORE OR LESS, BECAUSE IT SUITS SOMEONE'S PURPOSE. I MAKE NO APOLOGY.
DR. CHEN ADMITTED TO ME HE HEARD YOU AND ZOLA TALKING. ZOLA SPECIFICALLY SAID HE COULD RESTORE YOUR SISTER'S BODY, BUT NOT HER MIND.
CLEARLY HE'S BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OUR FATHER. THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS, AND FATHER HABITUALLY BACKED UP OUR MEMORIES--AS WELL AS HIS OWN--FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE.
YOU'RE SPECULATING. THEN YOU HAVEN'T ACTUALLY HEARD FROM ZOLA RECENTLY.
NO. BUT THAT'S HARDLY SURPRISING. HE HAS GOOD REASONS FOR SECRECY.
IF THIS IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM, MY SISTER AND I WILL GLADLY LEAVE.
YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU? NO, I'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH MOONSTONE AND SONGBIRD, AND THOUGH WE ALL HAVE GRAVE RESERVATIONS, WE AGREE.
YOUR SISTER CAN STAY. BUT SHE GOES NOWHERE EXCEPT UNDER GUARD, AND WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE, SHE'S CONFINED TO YOUR QUARTERS.
THAT'S FINE. I DON'T WANT ANYONE DISTURBING HER WHEN I'M IN THE FIELD. AND LEST YOU GET ANY...UNPLEASANT IDEAS WHILE I'M GONE--
--I HAVEN'T LEFT HER DEFENSELESS. IT'S TRUE OUR ENERGY POWERS ONLY WORK WHEN WE'RE TOUCHING. BUT I'VE MADE SURE PART OF ME WILL ALWAYS BE WITH HER.
YOU--SKINNED YOURSELF?
OF COURSE. I SKINNED HER WHEN SHE DIED, TO WRAP MY SWORD HILT IN, DIDN'T I? THE LEAST I COULD DO IS RETURN THE FAVOR.
AND PEOPLE SAY I'M CRAZY...
IF WE CAN TURN TO LESS REVOLTING MATTERS, OUR POLL NUMBERS HAVE TAKEN A HIT.
THE FAMILIES OF THE GUARDS VENOM ATE ARE GOING ON TALK SHOWS, WEEPING AND WAILING.

OUR P.R. PEOPLE ARE HANDLING IT. EXPLAINING THE MIND CONTROL AND SO FORTH. ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S NOT ENOUGH?
I'M SAYING ONE OF US SHOULD GO ON THESE SHOWS AND WE SHOULD DO SOME DAMAGE CONTROL.
AND BY "ONE OF US" SHE MEANS HER.
ENOUGH. THIS ISN'T OUR CONCERN. THE THUNDERBOLT PROGRAM IS FOR PUTTING CONVICTS LIKE YOURSELF--
YOU FORGET TO PAY THE BILLS?
WE'RE IN LOCKDOWN.
SOMEONE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN--
AGH!
FABOOM

HGH!
KTOOM
PIG, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH--
MOONSTONE. CRIMINAL. MURDERESS.
YOU THINK YOURSELF UNTOUCHABLE. YOU'RE WRONG.
--HURK!
YOU DERIVE YOUR POWERS FROM A KREE LIFESTONE. I UNDERSTAND IT FAR BETTER THAN YOU.
AND I CAN SHUT IT DOWN.
WHRAMM
YOU'RE CAPTAIN MARVEL, AREN'T YOU? I READ ABOUT YOUR RETURN. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
PLEASE... I KNEW YOUR SON. HE SAID YOU WERE A HERO.
TEDDY?
YOU KNOW TEDDY?

TEDDY? NO...I MEANT GENIS.
HE WAS A FRIEND... MORE THAN A FRIEND. HE--
ANOTHER SON? I HAVE--
--NO. I HAVE NOTHING. I AM NOT--
BULLSEYE, DON'T!!
HNH!
SLIKT
YOU MISSED. GET OUT OF THE WAY WHILE I RIP OUT HIS--
KRAKOOM

DAMN IT, I WAS GETTING THROUGH TO HIM!
MELISSA, ALL OUR SYSTEMS ARE DOWN. COMMUNICATIONS, SECURITY, EVERYTHING.
THIS IS NOT SOME RASH ACT. HE'S HERE TO KILL US ALL.
BUT WE WILL NOT DIE EASILY.
CAPTAIN MARVEL IS AN ENERGY SPONGE. HE ABSORBS AND MANIPULATES RADIATION.
LET US SEE WHAT HIS LIMITS ARE.
SHRRRIZZ
OH.

KZZZZAAAAKKK

ALIEN... SCUM.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE! YOU DIED!
EATEN AWAY BY CANCER!
HKK--!
YOU'RE THE CANCER.
AND I'M GOING TO BURN YOU OUT.
GGKK!
YOU CAN'T DO IT, CAN YOU?
AND MY GUESS IS YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY WHO YOU'RE DRESSED AS.

MY NAME'S NORMAN OSBORN. THIS IS MY OFFICE YOU TRASHED AND MY PEOPLE YOU SMACKED AROUND.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A DRINK AND TALK ABOUT IT?

RUNNING THE ASYLUM Part 1

Christos N. Gage Writer · Fernando Blanco Artist
Frank Martin Colorist · Comicraft's Albert Deschesne Letterer
Billy Tan Cover · Lauren Sankovitch Asst. Editor
Lazer & Rosemann Editors · Joe Quesada EIC · Dan Buckley Publisher

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MARTIN

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN. NORMAN OSBORN'S OFFICE.
RUNNING THE ASYLUM
Part 2
by Christos N. Gage & Fernando Blanco
LET ME TELL YOU.
I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING VOICES IN YOUR HEAD.
Frank Martin Colorist · Comicraft's Albert Deschesne Letterer
Billy Tan Cover · Sankovitch & Henry Asst. Editors
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VOICES PULLING YOU IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
AND I ALSO KNOW SOMETHING--THIS MIGHT SOUND STRANGE, AND IT IS--BUT I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT NOT BEING SURE IF YOU'RE REALLY PINK...
...OR GREEN.
AND I CAN TELL YOU THIS, CLICHÉ THAT IT IS... ONLY ONE PERSON CAN DECIDE WHO YOU ARE, INSIDE AND OUT.
AND THAT IS *YOU.*
AND HERE YOU ARE--YOU'VE BEEN SENT TO *KILL* US, BUT I SEE THAT YOU *CAN'T.*
MAY I ASK... THIS FORM YOU'VE CHOSEN AS OUR DESTROYER.
WAS IT PICKED FOR YOU BY THE SKRULL EMPIRE OR DID YOU PICK IT YOURSELF?
IT WAS--IT WAS PICKED FOR ME.
WERE YOU A SLEEPER AGENT?
BY THAT I MEAN...DID YOU KNOW WHO YOU WERE *ALL ALONG?* DID YOU KNOW *WHY* YOU WERE HERE?
NO.
YOU THOUGHT YOU *WERE* THE KREE WARRIOR MAR-VELL.
YES.
THE MAN OF HONOR, THE WARRIOR. EARTH'S PROTECTOR. YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO PROTECT US IN OUR TIME OF NEED.
I AM SO SORRY.

FAKOOM
DIRECTOR OSBORN? WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK. YOU'D KNOW THAT IF YOUR COMMUNICATORS WERE MADE BY OSCORP INSTEAD OF CHEAP STARKTECH TRASH.
GET THE THUNDERBOLT ALPHA TEAM UP AND ON THEIR FEET. GET TRANSPORT UP AND READY IN FIVE. MAC GARGAN IS SOMEWHERE OFF CAMPUS. GET HIM.
IF ANYONE DOES ANYTHING OUT OF CHARACTER, SHOOT THEM ON SIGHT. NOT EVERYONE IS WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE TODAY.
GIVE ME THAT.
OKAY, WE GET IT. YOUR COMMUNICATOR'S STILL WORKING, WHICH MAKES YOU BETTER THAN US.
YOU WANT TO LET US IN ON WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WE'RE AT WAR.
CH-CHAK

Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts—federal marshals, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

THUNDERBOLTS

NORMAN OSBORN

MOONSTONE

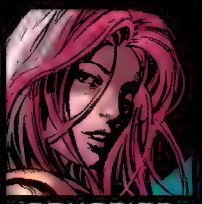
PENANCE

RADIOACTIVE MAN

VENOM

SWORDSMAN

BULLSEYE


SONGBIRD

The dust has settled after the full-fledged blowout among the various members of the Thunderbolts...but things are hardly back to normal.

The team continued rounding up unregistered superhumans, but to Thunderbolts Director **Norman Osborn's** disgust, the squad's mental wounds still fester, causing conflict and errors during their missions.

Back at Thunderbolts Mountain, **Swordsman** introduced the team to his formerly dead sister, **Andrea**, whom Osborn had pledged to resurrect in exchange for Swordsman's allegiance. Although the others were skeptical, tests proved Andrea's identity – much to Osborn's perplexity.

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THE ZEUS. TRAVELING TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND. EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
ACCORDING TO MY INTEL, SHAPE-CHANGING ALIENS CALLED SKRULLS HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING EARTH FOR YEARS. TODAY THEY ATTACKED US OPENLY.
MOST FIRST RESPONDERS ARE CRIPPLED BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIANCE ON ANTHONY STARK'S TECHNOLOGY, WHICH THE SKRULLS HAVE DISABLED.
THANKS TO MY INSISTENCE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF OUR EQUIPMENT BE BUILT BY MY COMPANIES, WE ARE AMERICA'S BEST HOPE.
WE ARE BOUND FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. TO DEFEND THE NATION'S CAPITAL. THIS IS OUR MOMENT, PEOPLE.
FAIL ME AND I'LL KILL YOU.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE STRUCKER TWINS ARE AGAIN GOING INTO BATTLE TOGETHER. ISN'T IT GLORIOUS, ANDREA?
I HOPE IT'S OCCURRED TO YOU THERE MIGHT BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SKRULLS AND SWORDSMAN'S LATE SISTER SUDDENLY TURNING UP ALIVE.
I WENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOL, MOONSTONE. OF COURSE IT HAS.
WHICH ONLY LEAVES THE QUESTION OF WHY YOU HAVEN'T KILLED HER.
SWORDSMAN SEEMS TO HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME FOR CRUCIFYING HIM.
SOME PEOPLE.
IF I KILL HER NOW, EVEN ASSUMING SHE CHANGES INTO A POINTY-EARED TROLL...
...SWORDSMAN'S FRAGILE MIND MIGHT WELL SNAP. HE COULD DO A LOT OF DAMAGE.
BESIDES, SHE'S FAR MORE USE TO US AS A JUDAS GOAT.

SHADOW HER, SUBTLY. TRY TO DETERMINE HOW SHE'S COMMUNICATING WITH HER SUPERIORS AND WHERE THEY ARE.
WHEN THE MOMENT SEEMS RIGHT, KILL HER BEFORE HER BROTHER'S EYES. THE MORE VIOLENTLY, THE BETTER.
WHEN SHE REVERTS TO SKRULL FORM, USE YOUR PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING TO DIRECT HIS RAGE--NOT AT US, BUT AT THE ALIEN BEINGS WHO DECEIVED HIM.
AND SUPPOSE SHE *DOESN'T* REVERT TO SKRULL FORM?
THEN KILL HIM TOO, OF COURSE.
THIRTY SECONDS TO DESTINATION, MR. OSBORN.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.
THE OTHERS--THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR--THEY MUST BE *CRIPPLED* BY MISTRUST, KNOWING *ANYONE* COULD BE THE ENEMY.
BUT WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE. WE DON'T TRUST EACH OTHER TO BEGIN WITH.
SO KEEP AN EYE OUT. AT THE FIRST SIGN OF BETRAYAL BY A TEAMMATE, EXECUTE THEM.
BUT YOU'D BETTER HAVE A DAMNED GOOD REASON. OR YOU'LL BE PRESUMED TO BE A SKRULL AND YOU'LL BE KILLED.
UNDERSTOOD?
GOOD. I'M GLAD WE HAD THIS LITTLE TALK.
NOW LET'S SHOW THESE BUREAUCRATS WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN THEY GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

THUNDERBOLTS!

ENGAGE!

ZZKEE

CHOOM

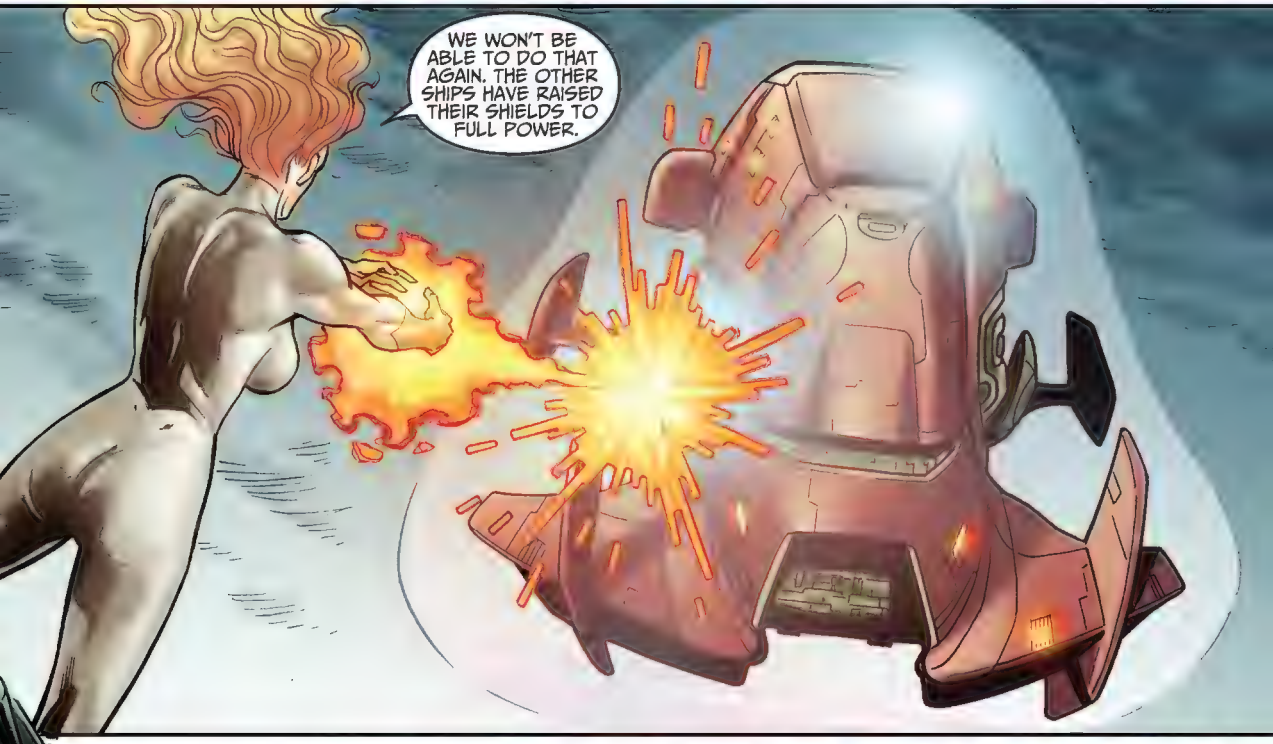
SHKOOM

PENANCE.
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
YES.
RRRZZZZ
RRRZZZZ

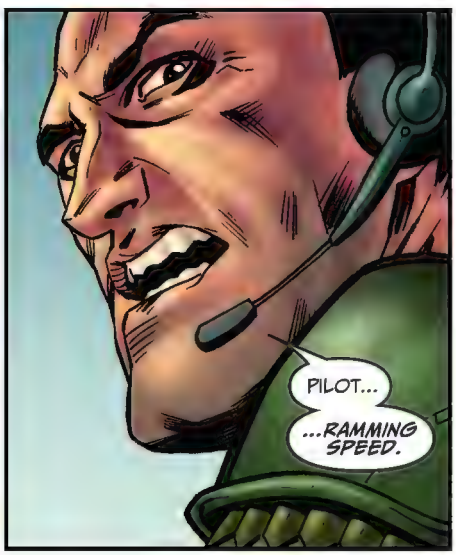
CH-WHOOOOM
VVVZAKK
SKREEEEPAMM

FWOOOM
PRESS
OH, THANK GOD.
HEY... THAT'S NORMAN OSBORN!
THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE HERE!

SONGBIRD! MAKE SURE THAT SHIP LANDS IN THE RIVER.
ON IT.
NORMAN, WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS.


WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT AGAIN. THE OTHER SHIPS HAVE RAISED THEIR SHIELDS TO FULL POWER.

OH, THEY *HAVE*, HAVE THEY?
EVERYONE FOCUS FIRE ON THE SAME SPOT. ALL AT ONCE, AT *MY* COMMAND!


PILOT...
...*RAMMING SPEED.*

NOW!
VVVREEEE
SHWASHH
CRASH POSITIONS!
CHROOOM

SPREAD OUT! I WANT PRISONERS, I WANT DATA... I WANT EVERY DETAIL OF THESE SPACE-TOADS' PLANS!
VENOM. BULLSEYE. I SAY THIS FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH YOU AND YOUR HANDLERS.
DON'T HOLD BACK.
OSBORN...
...THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANYONE'S EVER SAID TO ME.
BRRRTTT
CHROPP

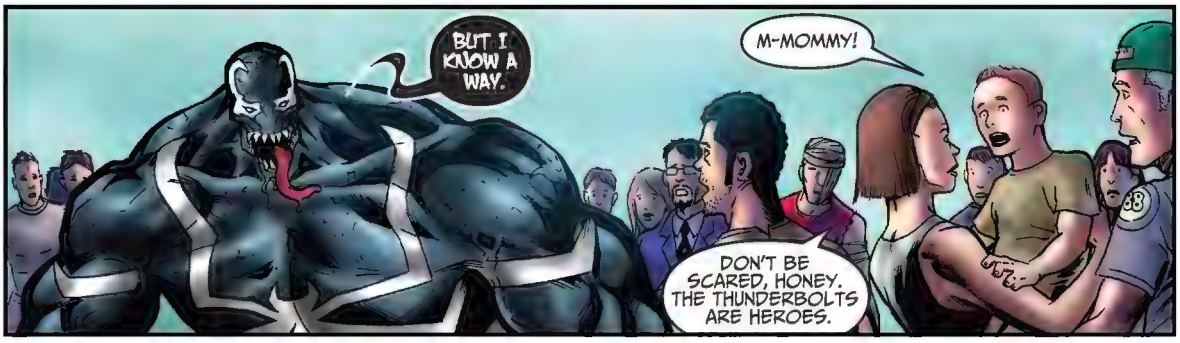
THIS WAY, ANDREAS. I DON'T FEEL SAFE AROUND THOSE PSYCHOPATHS.
DON'T WORRY, MY SISTER. NOW THAT I HAVE YOU BACK...
...NO ONE WILL EVER TAKE YOU FROM ME AGAIN.
〈THE THUNDERBOLTS. THEN OUR "CAPTAIN MARVEL" HAS EITHER FALLEN OR TURNED TRAITOR.〉
〈HARDLY SURPRISING. IF I HAD TO WEAR THE SHAPE OF A KREE, I'D GO MAD TOO.〉
〈OUR LEADERS PLANNED FOR THIS. THEIR WEAKNESSES HAVE BEEN CATALOGUED AND WILL BE EXPLOITED. AND I'VE CONTACTED THE MOTHER SHIP...〉
"...HELP IS ON THE WAY."

OH, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
OKAY, JUDGING FROM THE WINGS I'M GONNA GUESS YOU HAVE MY POWERS. GUESS WHAT, THAT DOESN'T SCARE ME.
YOU'D BETTER HAVE MORE THAN THAT OR--
---UH--- YOU GOT ATLAS, TOO, HUH?
WHRAMMM

SKRAMM

HNGH!
KRLANK
FABOOM

WHERRRE IS HE?
THERE WASN'T TIME TO RUN. YOU'RE SHAPE-CHANGERS, AREN'T YOU?
HIDING IN THE CROWD. YOU THINK I CAN'T FIND YOU.


BUT I KNOW A WAY.
M-MOMMY!
DON'T BE SCARED, HONEY. THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE HEROES.

THEY'RE HEROES...

(PERFECT. THE MOMENT HE STARTS KILLING THEM, BROADCAST THE IMAGES PLANETWIDE. LET THE HUMANS SEE WHAT THEIR "HEROES" ARE--)
STEP AWAY FROM THE CONTROLS. NOW!
YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO ORDER A SURRENDER BEFORE I--
HGGH!
SO...
...LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN OFFER ME TO SWITCH SIDES.
I THINK SOUTH AMERICA IS A GOOD START, DON'T YOU?

GHNN!
BRRRTTT
BRRRTTT
HA!
BRAVO TWO TO ZEUS, WE NEED A MEDIC AT--UKK!
WHOOPS. FRIENDLY FIRE.
DOES IT STILL COUNT AS "FRIENDLY" IF I HATE YOU?
THWUK
WELL, LOOK AT THIS. AN UNSUPERVISED FIELD TRIP.
NOW THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.

SHZZZ
RADIOACTIVE MAN, ARE YOU--?
I'M FINE. FOOL! ARE YOU RADIATING AGAINST A MAN WHO CONTROLS--
--CONTROLS
--AGH!
DR. CHEN!
THEY'VE STARTED A REACTION WITHIN ME
HANG ON. I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE ZEUS.
PENANCE TO ZEUS, I HAVE INCOMING--
ROBBIE BALDWIN.
--NO.

WHY ARE YOU ALIVE WHEN WE'RE DEAD?
AS I BLED OUT, I COULD HEAR THE SCREAMS. CHILDREN CRYING FOR THEIR MOTHERS. BEGGING FOR HELP.
YOU KILLED ALL OF US IN STAMFORD. WHY?
...NO NONONO NO...
I WAS PLAYING KICKBALL. THE EXPLOSION TORE OFF MY LEGS.
PENANCE! SNAP OUT OF IT!
WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING TO YOU, IT'S NOT REAL! IT'S--
--NOT... REAL...

NICE GUN, NORMAN! OVER-COMPENSATE MUCH?
BYE-BYE C.E.O., HELLO JAILBIRD. THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE REMEMBER.
LOOK AT YOU, ACTING LIKE A BIG SHOT. WHO D'YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING? WE EXPOSED YOU! PROVED YOU WERE A NUTBAG WITH A FETISH FOR GREEN!
FACE IT, TIGER. YOU'RE A JOKE!
SP-- SPIDER-MAN. SPIDER-MEN.
EVERYWHERE... HE'S EVERYWHERE... AHEHEHEHEH...
ZEUS TO MR. OSBORN... ARE YOU OKAY, SIR?
HA HA HA
TO BE CONTINUED!

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DIE, SPIDER-MAN!
AHAHAHAHAHAHA!

MEDICAL BAY OF SKRULL SHIP.
HAHAHA
HAHA
--HURM.
WELL.
THAT WAS SURPRISINGLY THERAPEUTIC.
NOT LONG AGO, THAT KIND OF THING MIGHT HAVE MADE ME A BIT...
...RAMBUNCTIOUS.
BUT I'M NORMAN OSBORN. SPIDER-MAN IS BENEATH MY NOTICE...
...A STAIN ON MY SHOE.
AND I HAVE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH.
SPLAT

Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts—federal marshals, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

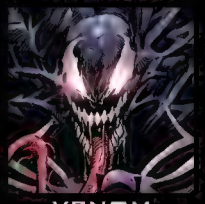
THUNDERBOLTS

NORMAN OSBORN

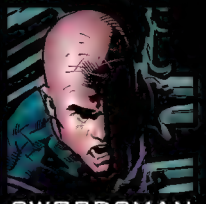
MOONSTONE

PENANCE

RADIOACTIVE MAN



VENOM



SWORDSMAN

BULLSEYE

SONGBIRD

Earth is under attack by the shape-shifting aliens known as the Skrulls! For months they've been infiltrating our planet by replacing key figures in the human and superhuman communities.

After thwarting an attack by a Skrull passing as Captain Marvel, Norman Osborn and the team head to Washington, D.C. to liberate the nation's capital.

Unleashed, Bullseye and Venom cut a wide path of destruction through both the enemy and their own handlers. Songbird finds herself overwhelmed by a Super-Skrull with the powers of the original Thunderbolts. Reunited with his sister, Swordsman storms into the control deck of a Skrull battleship, only to be betrayed by Moonstone, who offers her services to the invaders. Radioactive Man's suit backfires, causing a dangerous chain reaction, while Penance is haunted by Skrulls who take on the form of civilian casualties in the Stamford explosion.

CHRISTOS GAGE
Writer

FERNANDO BLANCO
Artist

FRANK MARTIN
Colorist

COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE
Letterer

BILLY TAN WITH RAUL TREVINO
Cover Artists

JOE SABINO
Production

LAUREN HENRY
Assistant Editor

BILL ROSEMANN
Editor

JOE QUESADA
Editor in Chief

DAN BUCKLEY
Publisher

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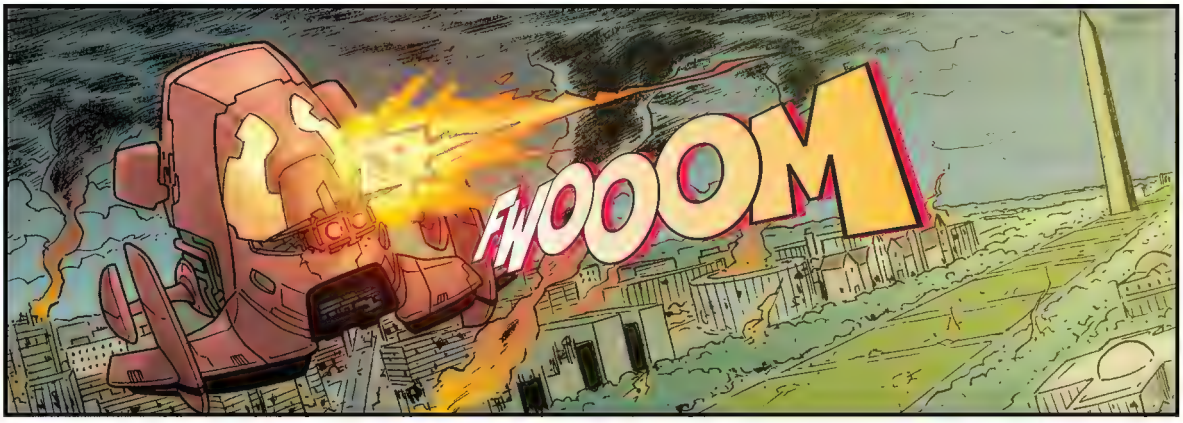
"For what they've done, they will have to pay the ultimate price." - Ultimatum

...I'M SORRY. SO SORRY. I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU...
TOO BAD. IT'S *YOUR FAULT* WE DIED.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE THIS RIGHT, ROBBIE.
YOU HAVE TO DIE TOO.
PENANCE, THIS IS OSBORN! STOP SNIVELING AND LISTEN TO ME!
YOU'VE MEMORIZED THE FACES OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD WHO DIED IN STAMFORD. YOU KNOW THEM INTIMATELY.
DO YOU SEE THEM HERE?
...NO. I DON'T.
AH...
...HE LOVES YOU?
RRRZZZL


FWOOOM

IMPRESSIVE, MR. BALDWIN. WE'LL MAKE A SOLDIER OUT OF YOU YET.
WE'VE GOT A SITUATION, NORMAN. THE SKRULLS BLASTED RADIOACTIVE MAN WITH AN ENERGY WEAPON. IT STARTED A REACTION INSIDE HIM.
HE'S BUILDING TO CRITICAL MASS.
DR. CHEN, CAN YOU KEEP FROM EXPLODING FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES?

GOOD...

"...BECAUSE WE HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS."

VENOM! LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY.
I'M NOT SPEAKING TO MAC GARGAN NOW. I'M ADDRESSING THE SYMBIOTE.
I KNOW YOU'RE INTELLIGENT, IN YOUR OWN...UNIQUE WAY. AND I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING.
YOU NEED A HOST TO SURVIVE. YOU NEED THIS HOST. WITH THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON, I CAN KILL MAC GARGAN AND, BY EXTENSION, YOU.
I REALIZE YOU HAVE...URGES. BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT YOU'LL BE GIVEN FULL LICENSE TO SATISFY THEM.
BUT IT HAS TO BE WITHIN CERTAIN PARAMETERS. GUIDELINES SET BY ME.
DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
AAAA-- GLKK

REPULSIVE CREATURE.
YOU KILL YOUR OWN KIND LIKE A MADDENED BEAST.
VZZNNN
WHEN THE EARTHLINGS SEE YOUR RAMPAGE--
--THEY'LL EMBRACE US AS LIBERATORS!
EXCEPT IT WAS AN *ACT*. AND YOU FELL FOR IT.
THEY MIGHT BE GROSSED OUT. BUT I DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY...
YET!

OH, WELL DONE, MAC. WE'RE ALL TAMING OUR DEMONS TODAY...
...OR AT LEAST DIRECTING THEM AT APPROPRIATE TARGETS.
GREAT. YOU CAN WRITE A SOCIOPATH'S SELF-HELP BOOK.
YOU WANT TO HELP ME GET DR. CHEN BACK TO THE ZEUS NOW?
DR. CHEN WILL BE STAYING HERE.
WHAT?!
SPEAKING OF DEMONS, I SHOULD CHECK IN WITH BULLSEYE'S HANDLERS. BRAVO TEAM, THIS IS OSBORN, COME BACK. OVER.
BRAVO TEAM, DO YOU READ?

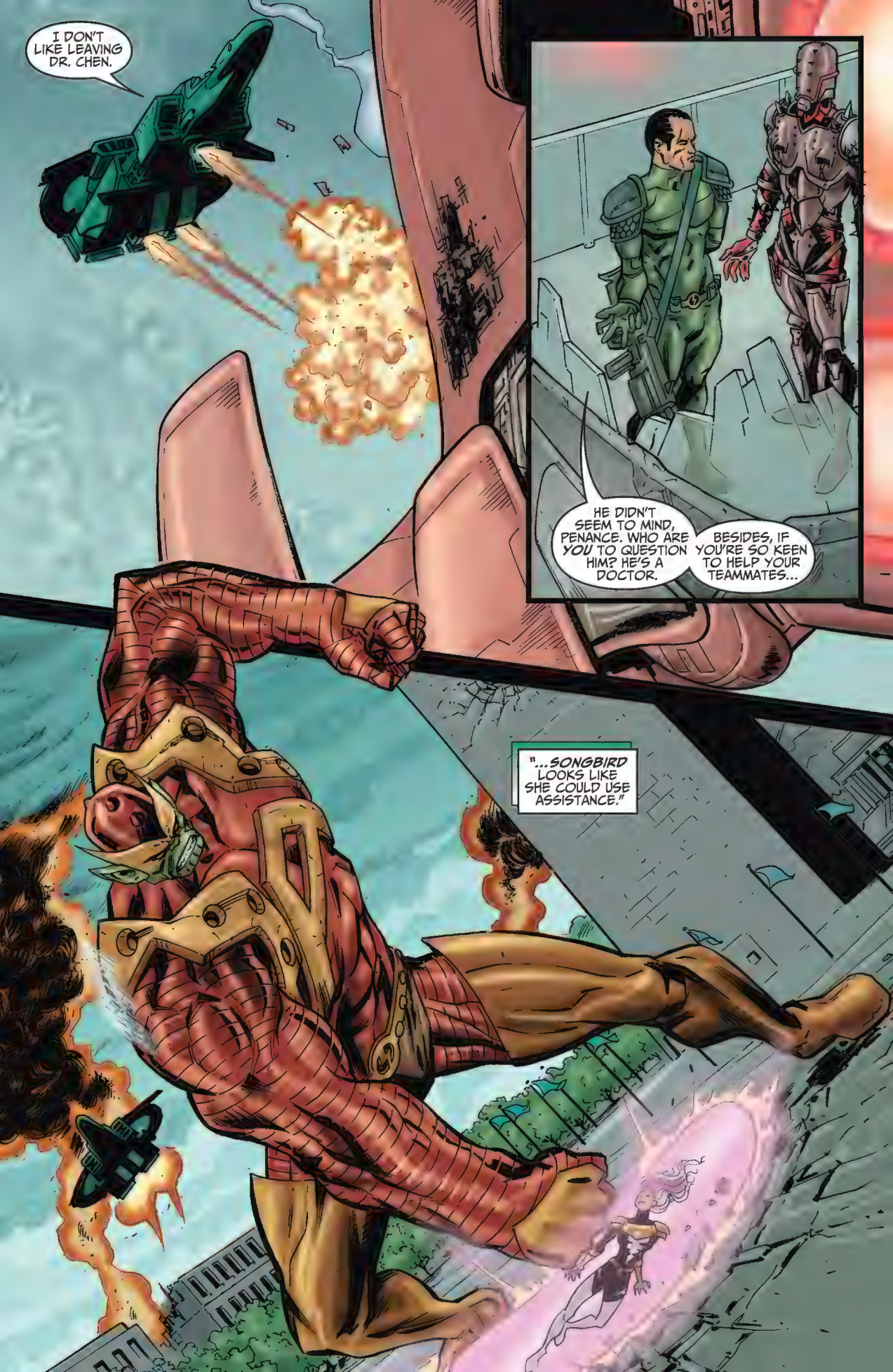
BRIDGE OF SKRULL SHIP TO-KID.
YOU HEARD ME. I'LL TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EARTH'S DEFENDERS AND THEIR WEAKNESSES. IN RETURN, I WANT SOUTH AMERICA.
DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
WE WILL BE INSTALLING NATIVE GOVERNORS. IT TENDS TO SMOOTH THE TRANSITION. SO YES, I BELIEVE WE CAN REACH AN ACCOMMODATION.
AND WHAT DOES YOUR COMPANION REQUIRE?
WAIT.
YOU MEAN SHE'S NOT A SKRULL?
WHORE!
ZZZHRASH

HOW DARE YOU STRIKE MY BROTHER? AND FROM BEHIND, LIKE A COMMON THIEF?
THOUGH I'LL ADMIT YOU'VE IMPRESSED ME. FEW CAN WITHSTAND A FULL FORCE BLAST.
NOTHING SURVIVES TWO.
ANDREA... W-WAIT... IT WAS A BLUFF...
YOU CAN'T MANIPULATE ME, MOONSTONE. WE'RE TOO MUCH ALIKE.
YOU'RE STALLING FOR TIME. TRYING TO FOCUS ENOUGH TO BECOME INTANGIBLE.
BUT IT WON'T WO--
--URRK!

EH. IT'S JUST NOT AS MUCH FUN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THEIR EYES.
YOU'VE GOT NICE EYES.
WHSSS
AW.
KTUNK

TRY THAT AGAIN AND I'LL DISEMBOWEL YOU, BULLSEYE. WHERE ARE YOUR HANDLERS?
DEAD.
WAR. IT'S *UGLY* LIKE THAT.
LET ME GUESS. YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T ESCAPE, BECAUSE WE'D TRIGGER THE NANOCHAIN IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM AND CRIPPLE YOU.
SO YOU'RE JUST GOING AROUND KILLING INDISCRIMINATELY UNTIL SOMEONE MAKES YOU STOP.
UP 'TIL NOW IT'S ALL BEEN ALIENS. I'M SICK OF ALIENS.
BE FUN TO KILL HIM WITH THE BLADE THAT ICED HIS SISTER.
NO. IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THE SKRULLS-- WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY OPTION NOW-- WE'LL NEED SWORDSMAN'S FIREPOWER.
GRAB ANDREA, TOO. EVEN DEAD, SHE HAS HER USES.
YOU'RE *SICK.*
I CAN RESPECT THAT.
SO. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA TELL NORMAN?
THE SAME THING *YOU'RE* GOING TO, IF HE ASKS.
WE DISCHARGED OUR DUTY TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

AH, MOONSTONE, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU.
AND YOU'VE BROUGHT OUR OTHER WAYWARD CHILDREN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
WE THOUGHT SHE WAS A SKRULL.
SHE WASN'T.
HONEST MISTAKE. DID THE SWORDSMAN SEE HOW SHE DIED?
NO.
EXCELLENT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH CHEN?
THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME. HE'S GOING TO EXPLODE.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE WITH HIM WHEN HE DOES.


I DON'T LIKE LEAVING DR. CHEN.
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND, PENANCE. WHO ARE *YOU* TO QUESTION HIM? HE'S A DOCTOR.
BESIDES, IF YOU'RE SO KEEN TO HELP YOUR TEAMMATES...
"...SONGBIRD LOOKS LIKE SHE COULD USE ASSISTANCE."

INTERESTING. THE CONTROLS AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM KREE SHIPS.
SO. YOU THINK YOU'LL SURVIVE THIS?
THAT... IS UNIMPORTANT. IF I CAN'T... CONTROL MY RADIATION... AFTER THE CRASH... THEY WON'T LEAVE ME IN SPACE... TO DIE.
COMMUNISTS. I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOU.
APPROACHING UPPER ATMOSPHERE. HOLD ON ANOTHER COUPLE SECONDS.
JUST AS WELL. WE HAVE COMPANY.
AS MY ROGERIAN THERAPY PROFESSOR USED TO SAY...
"...LET IT ALL HANG OUT."
WHOOM
WHAKA

THAT WAS... BIG.
NOW WHERE-- AH.
DOCTOR. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
MUCH BETTER, THANK YOU.
SHALL WE GO KILL SOME SKRULLS?
YOU'RE BOTH ALIVE. GOOD.
THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT--YOU CAN'T LET BULLSEYE JOIN THE FIGHT BECAUSE HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE TEAM.
RELAX. WE'LL EVEN THE ODDS.
NO.
EVERY TIME WE ATTACK THIS CREATURE, HE BECOMES INTANGIBLE. LIKE YOU, MOONSTONE.
THE PROPER COUNTER-FREQUENCY WOULD FORCIBLY MAKE HIM SOLID-- AS CAPTAIN MARVEL DID TO YOU. BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO COOPERATE IN HELPING US FIND IT.
I WANT YOU TO WORK WITH DR. CHEN. HELP HIM DETERMINE THE CORRECT ENERGY TO HIT THE SKRULL WITH.

THEN HE'LL KNOW HOW TO DO IT TO ME.
WELL, I SUGGEST YOU AVOID MAKING HIM MAD.
NOW GET TO IT. I'M ABOUT TO WAKE THE SWORDSMAN, AND I DON'T THINK YOU WANT ME TELLING HIM HIS SISTER DIED IN YOUR CARE.
SWORDSMAN. ANDREAS.
HNH--
M-MY SISTER.
WHERE IS MY--
...NO...
IT WAS THE SKRULLS. I'M SORRY.
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, THEY'VE PAID WITH THEIR LIVES.

CONSOLATION?!
YOU WANTED HER DEAD! I ONLY BROUGHT HER ALONG BECAUSE I FEARED LETTING HER OUT OF MY SIGHT!
I BLAME YOU FOR THIS, OSBORN!
THAT'S YOUR PREROGATIVE. SO IS IGNORING YOUR TEAMMATES' EFFORTS TO AVENGE HER, AND HER HEROIC SACRIFICE IN DEFENSE OF OUR PLANET.
BUT IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED, THERE'S A SHIP FULL OF THE CREATURES THAT KILLED HER STILL UP THERE.
THEIR SHIELDS ARE UP.
NOT FOR LONG.

WSSHAAK
THEY WILL ALL DIE SCREAMING.
BTHRAMM
HE'LL HAVE TO BE WATCHED.

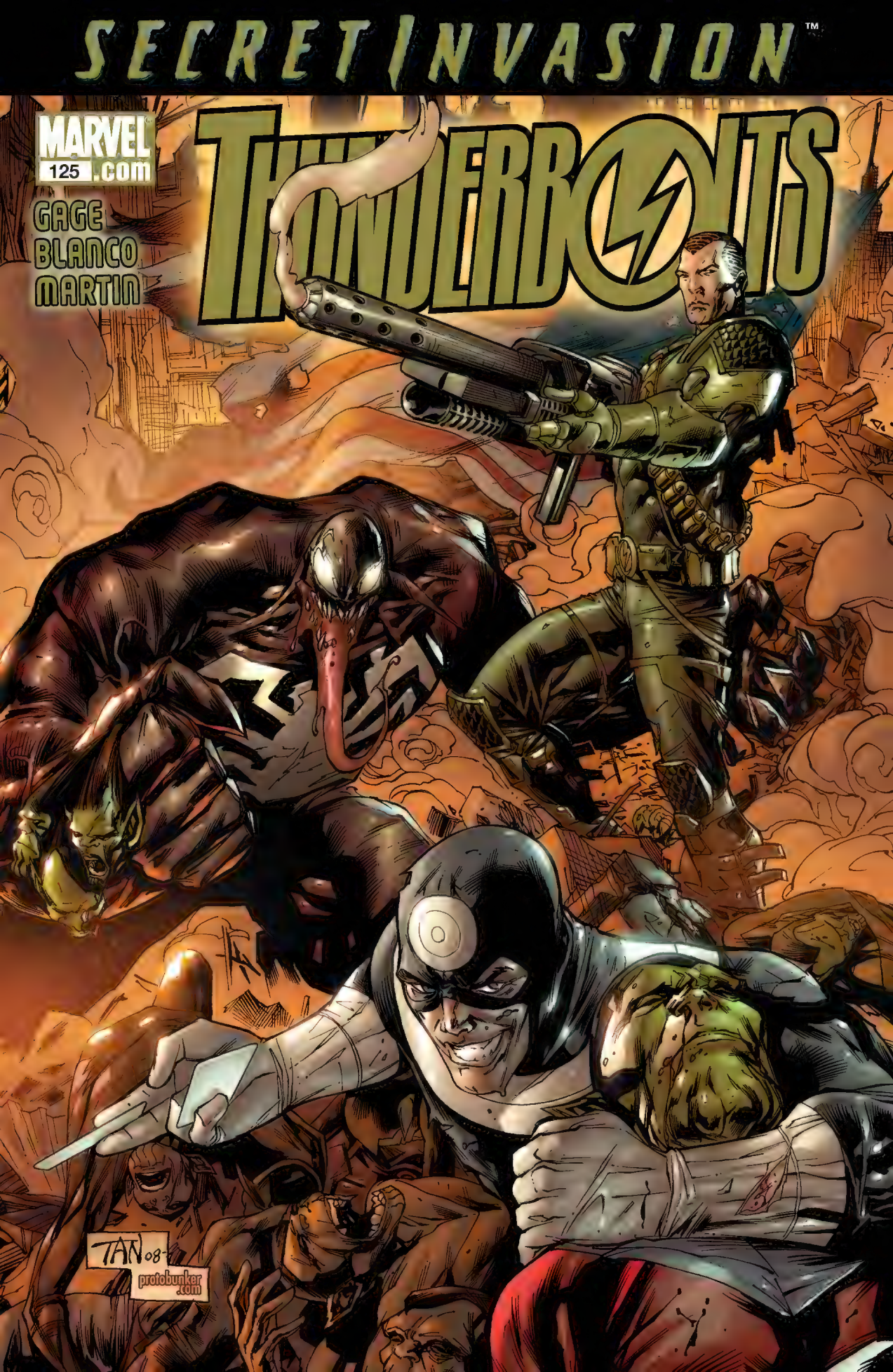
WE'VE FOUND THE FREQUENCY.
GOOD. MOONSTONE, TAKE BULLSEYE--*DISCREETLY*. DRESS HIM IN BATTLE ARMOR UNTIL YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING. SEIZE WHAT'S LEFT OF THAT LAST WARSHIP.
THE SWORDSMAN'S ALREADY THERE. LET THE BOYS HAVE THEIR FUN, BUT SAVE ME SOME PRISONERS. DR. CHEN, STAND BY.
TODAY...
"... WE MAKE HISTORY."
THUNDERBOLTS!
FOR EARTH! FOR FREEDOM!
STRIKE!

LOOK AT ME, MONSTER! I'M NORMAN OSBORN!
AND I'M IN CHARGE HERE!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

RADIOACTIVE MAN!
NOW!

HKK--!
MY FRIENDS!
THESE CREATURES THINK EARTH BELONGS TO THEM!
THAT THEY CAN COME HERE--TO OUR HOME--AND MAKE US KNEEL!
"BUT THIS IS OUR WORLD!"

"THIS IS OUR COUNTRY!"
"WHILE A SINGLE BREATH REMAINS IN OUR BODIES, WE WILL FIGHT AND DIE TO KEEP IT!"
"STAND WITH ME! SHOW THEM! LET US SHOUT IT WITH ONE VOICE!"
THIS...
...IS MY COUNTRY.
TO BE CONCLUDED!


SECRET INVASION™
MARVEL
125
.com
THUNDERBOLTS
GAGE
BLANCO
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.com

"THE WAR AGAINST THE SKRULLS IS FAR FROM OVER. EVEN HERE, IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, THE BATTLE STILL RAGES...THOUGH IT APPEARS THE THUNDERBOLTS HAVE IT WELL IN HAND.
"BUT IN *THIS* REPORTER'S OPINION, WHEN THE HISTORY OF THIS DAY IS WRITTEN, IT'S ALREADY QUITE CLEAR WHO THE HERO WILL BE.
"AND HIS NAME IS *NORMAN OSBORN.*"

MR. OSBORN! CAN WE HAVE A MOMENT?
I'LL BE GLAD TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT I CAN. BUT--*PLEASE*--FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, DON'T COME ANY CLOSER.
MY TEAM JUST BROUGHT DOWN THE LAST ENEMY SHIP, AND THEY'RE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF--
KTHROOM
--PACIFYING IT.

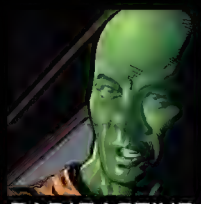
Once they were among the worst examples of villainy mankind had to offer! But now, conscripted by the Commission on Superhuman Affairs, they have been transformed into a force for social justice! They are the Thunderbolts—federal marshals, empowered to track down and bring in unlicensed, unregistered superhuman offenders coast-to-coast!

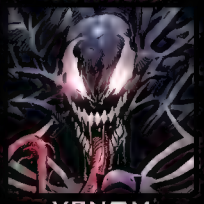
THUNDERBOLTS

NORMAN OSBORN

MOONSTONE

PENANCE


RADIOACTIVE MAN


VENOM

SWORDSMAN

BULLSEYE

SONGBIRD

Earth is under attack by the shape-shifting aliens known as the Skrulls! For months they infiltrated our planet by replacing key figures in the human and superhuman communities.

After thwarting an attack on Thunderbolts Mountain by a Skrull passing as Captain Marvel, Norman Osborn and the team took the fight to Washington, D.C. to liberate the nation's capital. Norman opened fire on a host of Skrulls disguised as Spider-Men, just as Penance destroyed a squad who had shape-shifted into victims of the Stamford accident, for which he still feels responsible.

Venom enjoyed the chaos of battle, devouring Skrulls at will, while Bullseye used the moment to kill Swordsman's sister, an act Norman then blamed on the Skrulls to manipulate Swordsman's grief. Radioactive Man and Moonstone used Radioactive Man's malfunctioning suit to deliver a powerful nuclear blast, taking out a Skrull battleship. Later, the two rescued an embattled Songbird.

With a group of journalists and cameramen conveniently standing by, Norman made an impassioned plea for the Thunderbolts to fight for their country – for his country!

CHRISTOS GAGE
Writer

FERNANDO BLANCO
Artist

FRANK MARTIN
Colorist

COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE
Letterer

BILLY TAN WITH RAUL TREVINO
Cover Artists

TAYLOR ESPOSITO
Production

LAUREN HENRY
Assistant Editor

BILL ROSEMANN
Editor

JOE QUESADA
Editor in Chief

DAN BUCKLEY
Publisher

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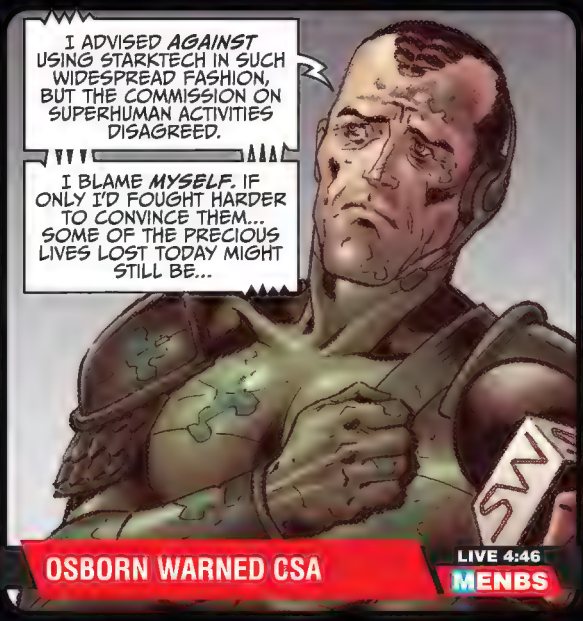
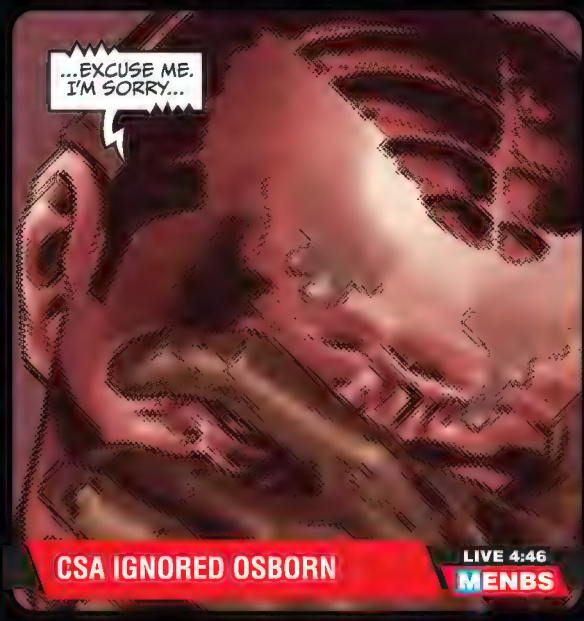
"For what they've done, they will have to pay the ultimate price." - Ultimatum

YOU'RE BASED IN COLORADO. WHAT BROUGHT *YOU* HERE INSTEAD OF, SAY, THE AVENGERS?
THE SKRULLS FOUND A WAY TO DISABLE *STARKTECH*--EQUIPMENT MADE BY ANTHONY STARK.
WHEN HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., MR. STARK HAD HIS TECHNOLOGY BUILT INTO MANY FIRST RESPONDERS' SYSTEMS.
STARKTECH COMPROMISED
LIVE 4:45
MENBS

AS A RESULT, THEIR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE SKRULL ATTACK HAS BEEN CRIPPLED.
FORTUNATELY, I HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE THUNDERBOLTS, AND I INSISTED THAT OUR MOST VITAL EQUIPMENT USE TECHNOLOGY FROM *MY* COMPANY--OSCORP.
SO WHEN THE CALL CAME TO DEFEND OUR NATION'S CAPITAL, WE WERE READY. AND WE ANSWERED IT WITH *PRIDE*.
OSCORP TECH SAFE
LIVE 4:45
MENBS


I ADVISED *AGAINST* USING STARKTECH IN SUCH WIDESPREAD FASHION, BUT THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES DISAGREED.
I BLAME *MYSELF*. IF ONLY I'D FOUGHT HARDER TO CONVINCE THEM... SOME OF THE PRECIOUS LIVES LOST TODAY MIGHT STILL BE...
SW
OSBORN WARNED CSA
LIVE 4:46
MENBS


...EXCUSE ME. I'M SORRY...
CSA IGNORED OSBORN
LIVE 4:46
MENBS

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE THUNDERBOLTS?
OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SAFE. AFTER THAT...
SW
PRESIDENT IS SAFE
LIVE 4:47
MENBS

...WE'LL GO WHERE WE'RE NEEDED MOST.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
SW
OSBORN: THUNDERBOLTS ARE GO
LIVE 4:47
MENBS

AND THERE HE GOES, BACK TO THE FRONT LINES. STAN?
"THANK YOU, CONNIE... AND THANK HEAVEN FOR NORMAN OSBORN.
"WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE HORROR HE'S WALKING INTO."

SKRULL SHIP TO-KID.
(THE SHIP IS LOST.)
(BUT WE CAN STILL CLAIM AN HONORABLE DEATH... AND CARRY THE SPIRITS OF FALLEN ENEMIES TO SERVE US IN SL'GURT'S SHADOWY REALM.)
(GIVE THE ORDER.)
SONGBIRD! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
RITUAL SUICIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE.
INTERESTING. THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEM.
AGREED. THEY ARE A RACE OF WARRIORS. ONE WOULD THINK THEY'D PREFER TO DIE—
—IN BATTLE—
SHLORP

RUN!

DAMN IT! THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

I HAD THIS *WON!*

I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

THAT THING'S LIKE A GIANT ONE-CELLED ORGANISM...BUT IT'S MADE UP OF *HUNDREDS* OF SKRULLS. THEIR CELLS ARE COMMUNICATING SOMEHOW.

IF I STRIKE WITH SUBSONICS WHILE RADIOACTIVE MAN HITS IT WITH A WIDE-SPECTRUM BLAST, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISRUPT ITS COHESION.

HOLD ON. YOU TOLD ME YOU'D LOST YOUR SONIC POWERS.

JUST THE FLASHY ONES. I HAVE AN ACE OR TWO UP MY SLEEVE.

I'VE HAD IT WITH THOSE TWO AND THEIR LITTLE *HIGH-SCHOOL CLIQUE.*

CLINGING TO THEIR PIPE DREAM OF THE THUNDERBOLTS AS A PATH TO *REDEMPTION*...IT'S A THREAT TO BOTH OF US, NORMAN.

CALM DOWN, MOONSTONE. I AGREE WITH YOU.

AND I WILL *HANDLE* IT.

THAT WAS EASIER THAN I EXPECTED.

THE MASS WAS NEARLY UNSTABLE TO BEGIN WITH.

I WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED LONG.

I BELIEVE ITS SOLE MISSION WAS TO KILL AS MANY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE DYING ITSELF.

AN ALIEN SUICIDE BOMBER. *CHARMING.*

WELL DONE, DR. CHEN. AN EXCELLENT WAY TO END THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES.

[illegible]

THERE ARE BATTLES STILL RAGING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!
AND WE'LL BE THERE. BUT YOU WON'T.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. THAT WEAPON THE SKRULLS HIT YOU WITH SENT YOU TO CRITICAL MASS. WE NEED YOU BACK AT BASE FOR EXAMINATION.
BUT I'M FINE NOW
ARE YOU SURE?
WE'RE GOING TO MANHATTAN NEXT. OVER ONE AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE. SEVENTY THOUSAND PER SQUARE MILE.
CAN YOU PROMISE ME YOU WON'T PLACE THEM IN DANGER?
I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.
GOOD MAN. THE MOMENT YOU'RE PRONOUNCED STABLE YOU'LL BE BACK IN ACTION.
WAIT A SECOND. I'M FIELD LEADER HERE. PERSONNEL DECISIONS ARE MY--
FIELD LEADER, YES. BUT I'M DIRECTOR. WHICH MEANS THAT I AM STILL IN CHARGE.
FRANKLY, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY I'M NOT SENDING YOU HOME. OF EVERYONE ON THIS TEAM, YOU'VE BEEN THE LEAST EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE SKRULLS.

BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE ORDERED ME TO DO. BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEND IN BACKUP WHEN I WAS FIGHTING THAT ENHANCED SKRULL ALONE.
THERE'S A WAR ON, SONGBIRD. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
UNLESS YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING WHILE YOU PITCH YOUR HISSY FIT.
FINE.
BUT WE'LL HAVE A TALK, WHEN THIS IS OVER.
AND IF I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY, YOUR FRIENDS IN THE MEDIA WILL GET ONE HELL OF A STORY.
OSBORN.

SWORDSMAN.
THESE CREATURES KILLED MY SISTER.
IF YOU TRY TO REMOVE ME FROM THE FIGHT, I WILL FEED YOU YOUR OWN ENTRAILS.
I WOULDN'T *THINK* OF IT.
A SOLDIER AS...*MOTIVATED*... AS YOU BELONGS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
THEN LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

THEIR WORK HERE IS DONE. HAVING SAVED OUR CAPITAL, OUR PRESIDENT, AND QUITE POSSIBLY OUR NATION, THE THUNDERBOLTS HEAD FOR MANHATTAN TO SAVE OUR WORLD...
...TAKING WITH THEM THE HOPES AND PRAYERS OF ALL HUMANITY.

...BRAINS...
SHUT UP AND GET IN THERE.

GODSPEED.

MANHATTAN.
GOOD LORD. WHERE DO WE BEGIN?
I THINK...
...THERE.
KRAKA-BOOM

YOU'RE NOT HERE TO *SAVE* US. IT'S ALL LIES. YOU'RE HERE TO *PUNISH* US.

WELL.

YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU FOUND IT FUNNY TO TURN OUR BROTHERS INTO COWS.

WHO--?

GREAT. VENOM AND OSBORN. THAT'S *ALL* WE NEED.

GET READY, CLINT. THIS COULD BE TROUBLE.

THUNDERBOLTS. TAKE POINT.

SKRULLS ARE THE TARGET. ANYTHING PAST THAT, AND YOU WON'T LIVE 'TILL TOMORROW.

BUT, OSBORN, SPIDER-MAN IS RIGHT OVER--

SKRULLS...

...ARE THE TARGET.

AVENGERS!

ASSEMBLE!

FURY.
NORMAN.
YOU SHOULD BE IN JAIL.
SO SHOULD YOU.
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
NOW THEY'RE GIANTING UP...OKAY. GIVE ME A TARGET, I'LL TAKE IT.
WHAT POWER SET *DON'T* THEY HAVE? GARGAN, GET UP THERE!
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
SPAK
GUHH!

DAMN IT.
BULLSEYE! THEY SAY THAT IN YOUR HANDS A MUNDANE OBJECT BECOMES A WEAPON.
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT A *WEAPON* BECOMES.
THE ZEUS' ARMORY. TAKE ANYTHING YOU WANT.
PERFECT.

BA-SHOOM

WHOOM
KTOMM

I'M SORRY.
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN. MY ARMOR'S SHOT, I'M USELESS.
DO WHAT THOU MUST!
PRESS
PERFECT.
"--AS IRON MAN APPEARS TO BE LEAVING THE BATTLEFIELD--"
HE'S RUNNING?
THIS WHOLE MESS IS HIS FAULT AND HE'S RUNNING?
GENERAL,
ASSUMING WE SURVIVE, WHEN THIS IS OVER...

"...I WANT TO SEE NORMAN OSBORN."
THUNDERBOLTS! TAKE THE FRONT LINE!
Next: A New Creative Team Burns Down The House!

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

Secret Invasion strikes Thunderbolts Mountain as Captain Marvel attacks! But when you're dealing with the Thunderbolts, it's never quite clear who's the villain and who's the hero. And when the arrival of another unexpected visitor threatens to tear the T-Bolts apart from within, can Norman Osborn hold his team of damaged psyches and tortured souls together — or is this the end of the Thunderbolts as we know them? Plus: Songbird and Moonstone collide! Radioactive Man and Swordsman must choose between their team, their homelands...and themselves! And find out who's crazier — Venom or Norman Osborn!

Collecting ***Thunderbolts #122-125***; and the ***Breaking Point***, ***International Incident*** and ***Reason in Madness*** one-shots — written by Christos Gage; and illustrated by Fernando Blanco, Brian Denham and Ben Oliver.

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